

T H E
Life and Amours
O F
OWEN TIDERIC,
Prince of WALES,
OTHERWISE
OWEN TUDOR.

Scans in
MURAS

AN DERIC

The Duke of WINDSOR

OWEN TUDOR

AN DERIC

I am now too old to be a King.
I have had a long life.

It has been a hard life, but I have
had a good life.

I have had many friends, but I have
had many enemies.

I have had many successes, but I have
had many failures.

I have had many joys, but I have
had many sorrows.

I have had many successes, but I have
had many failures.

I have had many joys, but I have
had many sorrows.

END OF THE

King of WINDSOR

MARCH 1

THE
LIFE and AMOURS
OF
OWEN TIDERIC
Prince of WALES,
OTHERWISE
OWEN TUDOR,

Who married CATHARINE Princess of FRANCE, and Widow of our great King HENRY V; from which Marriage descended HENRY VII. HENRY VIII. EDWARD VI. Queen MARY, and Queen ELIZABETH, all of whom had from him the Surname of TUDOR; and from him likewise are descended, by the eldest Daughter of HENRY VII. the present Royal Family of GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE, and IRELAND.

First wrote in French, and published many Years since at Paris, and now translated into English.

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M D C C L I.

1871

H A R T
G A U M A b u s e n t i d

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STRUCTURE

BRITAG

PREFACE.

IT is a rule laid down by Aristotle and most other criticks, that a tragedy or epic poem ought to be founded upon some piece of true history, and that no incident should be introduced, which does not arise naturally and probably from the chief subject. This rule has been observed by most of the old writers of romances; and our modern writers of novels are so sensible of its being just, that even when the whole is merely the production of their own

fancy, yet they pretend that it is a true history.

The author of the following novel has so exactly followed this rule, that the foundation of it is a piece of history, well known to be true, and all the incidents are either true, or such as might be, and probably were in France believed to be true; and every one of them arises most naturally from his chief subject. That it was wrote by a Frenchman, is very evident from a mistake committed, in confounding Henry the fourth's expedition into Scotland, soon after the beginning of his reign, with the battle of Halidown-hill, where the Scottish army met with a signal defeat, and their chief commander, the earl of Douglas, was actually made prisoner.

As

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As to the disease of which Henry the fifth died, and the execution of Owen Tudor, they are not confirmed by any of our historians, but then it is remarkable, that our own historians differ about the disease which put an end to the life of that great king; and none of them have with any certain authority told us, what became of Owen Tudor after the death of queen Catharine; therefore it is probable, that both these facts were founded upon traditions current among the people of France; and it seems to be certain that Owen Tudor was dead before Henry the sixth took the reins of government into his own hands; for that king, who conferred such high honours and special favours upon the sons, would not probably have entirely neglected the father.

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As

As to Owen Tudor himself, or Owen Tideric, as he was called in France, Tudor in the Welch language sounding very like Tideric, I shall not enter into an inquiry, whether he was lineally descended of any of the old British kings or princes, but it is certain, that he was descended, at least by a female branch, from some of the old princes of Wales; and as he had a fine person, and was a well accomplished gentleman, according to all accounts, it is probable, that he was sent, while yet very young, by the Welch, who, under Owen Glendower, were then in what was called a rebellion against Henry the fourth, as their ambassador, first into Scotland, and afterwards to France; and by them not only impowered to assume the title, but enabled to support the character of prince.

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prince of Wales, which gave him an opportunity of often seeing, and even of contracting a familiarity with the beautiful princess Catharine, before she was married to Henry the fifth.

In his ambassy at the court of France he succeeded so well, that he prevailed on them to send with him no less than 12,000 men to the assistance of the Welch, and this body of troops actually landed in Wales in the year 1405, but they reembarked again upon Henry's marching against them, and, as usual, left their friends the Welch to shift for themselves. With these troops, or soon after them, Owen Tudor probably returned to France, to sollicit a new invasion, but the civil broils in France prevented his being ever able to succeed; and it could not be till some years after this,

this, that the love-intrigue between him and the princess Catharine began; for the battle of Azincourt was not fought till near the end of the year 1415; therefore we must suppose, that the hero of this piece was a good deal older than his mistress.

However, there is nothing in the relation that appears improbable, or that is expressly contradicted by history. On the contrary, the whole seems probable from the circumstances of affairs both in France and England at that time; and this intrigue, with its several consequences, seems to have been directed by providence, for uniting the several sorts of people that inhabit the islands of Britain and Ireland, by uniting in our present royal

royal family the royal blood of every one of them ; for the royal family of Scotland were certainly by Fergus the first or second descended from that of Ireland, and the royal blood of the Saxons and Normans was united in Henry II. king of England, and afterwards united with that of the Welch in the person of Henry the seventh, grandson of this Owen Tudor, and from him surnamed Tudor, who by wisely marrying his eldest daughter to the king of Scotland, laid a foundation for uniting the two royal families of England and Scotland in the person of James the first of England and sixth of Scotland.

Thus we may justly say, that the royal families of the British, Irish, Scottish, Saxon, and Norman people, are all united

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nited in our present royal family ; and this should serve as a band of union to all the inhabitants of the British dominions, which if duly regarded, and properly improved, might prevent our ever having cause to fear an invasion from the French, or any other power upon earth ; and indeed it is the only band for uniting the hearts of those several sorts of people, who in former ages have so often imbrued their hands in the blood of one another ; for a principle of loyalty to our sovereign is the only principle that can be made to prevail over those popular and provincial prejudices which subsist between nations that have been long under separate and distinct governments, consequently often at variance, and always treating one another

another with contempt, till united under one monarch, who from interest as well as justice is obliged to have an equal regard to each, and who is invested with sufficient power for manifesting that regard without danger.

It is this that has so thoroughly united the different nations that now inhabit the kingdom of France; and that makes a Norman, a Briton, a Gascoon, or a Burgundian, as fond of the glory of the grand monarch as if he had been born in the city of Paris. It is this that makes that kingdom so powerful, and so invulnerable; and this union will now probably be preserved, as long as they preserve an indisputable succession to their crown;

crown ; for the enthusiastical disputes about religion seem now to be so much extinguished, that no set of priests will be able to prevail with the people, to sacrifice their country to the introduction of any sect of religion, different from that which is established by the supreme civil authority.

And as we have in this country a royal family, in which is united the royal blood of every nation that now bears a name in any part of our dominions, we have certainly more reason than the French to unite heartily with one another, in protecting and advancing the glory of our monarch ; for unless we do this, we may probably soon become a pro-

province to France; therefore I shall conclude with praying, that all British subjects may put an end to party-distinctions, and all heartily unite in loyalty to the British monarch, because in this they will always at last find, that the true interest of their country chiefly consists.

VI. ZOARONI

En la noche de ayer
vino la señora que viene
de vez en cuando con su
hija que es una niña de
seis años y que se llama
Zoaróni y que es muy
bonita y que dice que
ella viene a verme.

THE
LIFE and AMOURS
OF
OWEN TIDERIC,
Prince of Wales, &c. &c.

C H A P. I.

TH E war which had lasted many centuries between the English and the Welch, was in all appearance extinguished, since there was not the least probability that the Welch could ever think of shaking off the English yoke; when on a sudden Owen Tideric, one of their princes, who, they said, was a descendant of Cadwallader, king of the antient Britons,

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undertook to remount the throne of his Ancestors. He found no difficulty to persuade the Welch to take up arms, as they were so exasperated against their new masters, that they were willing and ready to sacrifice the last drop of their blood to regain their former freedom.

TIDERIC was overjoyed to find them in such a disposition ; but did not judge it prudent to rely entirely upon their strength alone : He therefore sought the protection of the kings of France and Scotland, both of whom promised to assist and support him in so laudable a design.

HENRY the fourth, who had just been crown'd in England, no sooner got intelligence of this potent league formed against him, than he prepared for war. For this purpose he raised an army of forty thousand men, and resolved to command in person. With this army he marched for Scotland, and met his enemies on the borders, where they had

af-

TIDERIC Prince of Wales. 3

assembled their army. Henry offered them battle, which they accepted ; but Fortune declared herself against them.

TIDERIC was obliged to betake himself to flight, and the Earl of Douglas, who commanded the Scottish army, was amongst others made prisoner.

By this defeat the views of the prince of Wales were all disappointed : he too plainly saw, that he had no resource left but in the friendship of Charles VI. king of France ; to whose court he repaired, and met with a more favourable reception from that monarch than he had reason to expect under his misfortunes. The nobility of that kingdom, in imitation of their prince, shewed him all the respect due to his virtue and character. Their civilities and caresses were sufficient to have dissipated the anxiety he was in for the loss he had sustained, if he could have been sensibly affected with any thing but his desire of glory ; for it is a very difficult

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ficult matter for great souls born to com-
mand, to find satisfaction in any thing
but dominion. This Prince preferred
the crown of Wales beyond all the ho-
nours paid him at Charles's court ; for
which reason he tried all the means he
could suggest, to prevail with Charles to
grant him succours. But France was
no more what she had been : Since that
unfortunate accident, which happened
to her king, as you may read in her an-
nals, that nation was so torn to pieces by
the jarring interests of the princes of the
blood, that it was with difficulty she
could support herself.

TIDERIC seeing how inconsistent her
intestine divisions were with his interest,
could hardly bear his misfortunes with
patience. But fate had still in reserve
for him new torments ; for he could
not have been truly sensible what it was
to be compleatly unhappy, if he had not
felt the pangs of love, without the least
shadow of hope.

CHARLES

CHARLES king of France had several children by his queen Isabella of Bavaria ; and Catharine the youngest of his daughters might justly be said to be one of the most perfect and most beautiful ladies in the world : she had something so surprisingly engaging, that she captivated the moment she was seen, and her behaviour had such charms as rendered it impossible for any man to guard his heart against so many temptations. Her shape was equal to her beauty; and in short she seem'd to have been form'd on purpose for inspiring the most tender sentiments of love.

TIDERIC at first looked upon her with admiration ; but as his circumstances did not correspond with such great views, his reason had the ascendant for some time. — The mind of this prince was as much taken up with his own misfortunes, as with the perfections of the

princess Catharine. Nevertheless, he had a heart like other men ; and he must have been a meer savage, to see every day this princess without being sensibly affected. He became therefore more thoughtful than usual, or rather he was seized with such a soft but unquiet absence of mind, as generally happens to those who begin to indulge any violent passion. Perceiving this alteration in his temper, he was a little uneasy, but did not trouble himself so much about it as he would have done, had he known the real cause : however, he could not help making some reflections on the desire he had to render himself agreeable to the princess. Yet in this likewise he even endeavoured as it were to deceive himself.

AND indeed Catharine had shewn him so many instances of her goodness, as gave him reason to suppose that his care to render her all the little services in his power, proceeded from a just sense of gratitude, rather than from love.

BUT

BUT we know what effects great obligations produce ; for tho' they are grafted deep in grateful minds, yet all things have their bounds ; and it is easy to distinguish between those effects which proceed from love, and those which proceed from gratitude alone.

TIDERIC did not remain long in this error : The ardent desire he had to be wherever Catharine was, convinced him, that this was not owing to civility only, but that something very extraordinary must have caused those sentiments of tenderness, which he could not account for.

THESE reflections shook his soul with apprehensions at the consequences that might happen : He therefore resolved to stifle this passion in its birth, and to let nothing escape his imagination that could represent to him the fatal effects of such a dangerous pursuit.

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But there are none but those who never had that truly noble passion of being really inspired with love, that will believe such a resolution could hold. —
For it is with love as with birds en-snared, the more they flutter to extricate themselves, the faster they are fixed.

TIDERIC in this particular was not more fortunate than they, for all the reasons he summoned to his assistance for defending himself against this his darling passion, riveted his love the stronger. Catharine's charms presented themselves in such crowds to his mind, and he was so agreeably delighted with the perfections of that princess, that he began to triumph in his weakness. It was his greatest pleasure to be in her presence ; he forgot, when he was near her, all remembrance of his misfortunes ; his only care was to appear before her in the most agreeable manner he could think of.

HE

HE was no longer the same Tideric; ambition and glory, which had been the inseparable companions of his mind, gave place to more soft and tender passions, which with lovers have as many charms as the most glorious crowns. “ But — what — (would he sometimes say to himself) dost thou think, what thou art about? what road thou art in? Is this the way that conquerors shew thee how to overcome thine enemies? O shame! to think only of pleasures, when thy whole study should be to regain thy throne. What joy will it give Henry when he is told, thy greatest delight is to live in bondage, when thou shouldst think only of the means to enable thee to get out of it? ” Then in a moment he would answer himself thus: “ Thy desires are reasonable, none will condemn thee. Is there not as much wisdom in them as weakness? Examine it seriously. Is it not natural to seek aid from our neighbours, when we cannot help ourselves? and where wilt thou find assistance but

The LIFE of in allying thyself with Chatles, if thy good fortune will but favour thee with success.

THESE thoughts were not so well established in his mind as to free him from those disquietudes which disturbed him : This often caused him to reflect on the greatness of Catharine's, and his own situation ; for he was not so blinded by self-love as not to see, that had he possessed ten such provinces as that he had lost by the ill success of his arms, they would be scarce sufficient to entitle him to so great a princess ; therefore he determined to endure the torments of his violent passion with as much secrecy as possible.

As there is nothing more afflicting than love without hope, it is not easy to imagine the pitious condition he was reduced to. He often resolved to leave the French court, but to what part of the world he should retire, in his distressed condition, without endangering the security

security of his person, was not possible for him to determine ; therefore he was obliged through meer necessity to remain where he was.

THE extraordinary melancholy which oppressed him was perceived by the whole court ; but as the situation of his affairs was publickly known to be so very bad, none attributed it to any other cause, as not having the least suspicion of what really afflicted his mind. They therefore endeavoured to entertain him with all the diversions that could be thought of. Even Catharine herself, who felt some favourable sentiments for the prince, which she had not as yet been sensible of for any other person, could not refrain from telling him, that he ought not to allow himself to be so much afflicted by the accidents of fortune ; because it was daily seen, that there was nothing so inconsistent, and that we should consider that she was often extravagant in the distribution of her favours to those she had the mo-

The LIFE of ment before oppressed with her greatest severities.

TIDERIC answered the princess as was suitable to her obliging remonstrance ; but having resolved not to discover the secrets of his soul, he contented himself with taking notice in general, that his sorrows proceeded from another cause than that which she imagined ; and that the more we find ourselves possessed with great designs, the greater must be the affliction to behold them at such a distance as leaves no foundation for hopes.

ALTHO' their conversation did not continue long, it inflamed Tideric's wounds ; it began also to have strange effects on Catharine's mind, for as pity begets tender sentiments, this princess indulged them without thinking her concern any other than what proceeded from Tideric's misfortunes, after becoming sensible of his merit.

THIS

THIS prince was possessed of such amiable qualities as were surprisingly engaging ; besides, being exceedingly handsome in his person, he had that sweet mild temper, which insinuates itself into the heart more than the most brilliant wit.

THE princess, in her turn, became pensive ; and if TIDERIC had taken that opportunity of declaring his passion, it is certain she would have heard him with pleasure, and the unfortunate prince must have met with so kind a reception as would have been a great consolation to him in his distress. But he could not flatter himself so far as to venture upon a discovery of that sort ; therefore he contented himself with expressing his love only by his assiduity ; which, nevertheless, the princess put a just value upon, and 'tis a question which was greatest, Tideric's love, or Catherine's gratitude.

BUT

BUT their manner of proceeding increased their unhappiness ; and in short without tasting the sweets of love, they would probably have long endured all its pangs, had not the king of England died, and by means of what happened afterwards, given them occasion to discover their sentiments to each other.

THIS king being dead, Henry V. his son, succeeded, who applied himself at first to those things which were immediately necessary for preserving the peace of his subjects ; and after having established the domestic tranquillity of his kingdom, his next resolution was, to declare war against France, or settle a peace with her upon a firm and lasting foundation. For this purpose he sent ambassadors to Charles, in order to adjust those differences which had subsisted during the whole reign of the late king his father ; and at the same time his ambassadors were instructed to demand Catharine in marriage.

THESE

THESE ambassadors were no sooner arrived at Paris, than all the world knew the purport of their errand. Tideric was terribly alarmed at it, and the princess was so afflicted, that she could not conceal her aversion to such a marriage. Her concern was so great, that she was incessantly in tears, which was perceived by all about her.

As one day Tideric went to visit the princess, he found her upon her couch, and sunk in matchless sorrow. Approaching towards her with the highest respect, he said, "What, madam, can cause so great an alteration? Those fine eyes have chosen an improper season to be drowned in tears, when they ought to appear with more darting luster, after having made so glorious a conquest. It is true, madam, that all the crowns on earth have nothing equal to your merit; but a kingdom has some charms,

charms, and a princess, without derogating from her ambition, might content herself with that of England."

" If I resembled Tideric, answered the princess coldly, I am sensible I should resign every thing to ambition, and not embarrass myself with the attachments we ought to have for those who have a right to our affections. But as I am made after a different manner, I may have different sentiments, and perhaps mine.—"

" Ah madam! said the prince, interrupting her, can you impose so far on your understanding, to have such thoughts? How little do you know Tideric, to imagine that his only passion is to reign? I own that there was a time when I was all ambition, but there happens great alterations in life; and it is very difficult, amidst so many beauties as are at the court of France, to have no passion but for glory; or rather not to forget that passion entirely

ly when once the heart is inflam'd with
a passion for a lovely object."

"Indeed you surprize me, replied
the princess; I should never have sus-
pected you to be in love."

"We often mistake people, answer-
ed Tideric, but I will keep you no
longer in suspence, and I am persuaded
you'll own that I am much more to be
pitied than you imagine. You know,
madam, that my misfortune in war ob-
liged me to seek the king your father's
protection. I no sooner arrived here,
but I found what I had never met with
elsewhere. The men appeared to me
extremely courteous and humane, and
the ladies, to my fancy, did every thing
with such an unaffected air and grace,
as confirmed me in the opinion, that true
politeness was no where to be found but
in France. I made it my business to
study the manners of people here as near
as possible, that I might have a model
by

by which I should regulate my future behaviour. But how dangerous is it to consider closely a deserving object! I happened to see a certain Lady, whose charms ravished my very soul, and who took that instant possession of my heart. Excuse me, madam, if I do not attempt to describe her admirable beauties. My heart may to itself, but nothing else can express her enchanting perfections. I shall only assure you, in short, that no lady ever had a finer person, or a more beautiful mind; and as there is not one in the world more accomplished than she, so never was a passion more tender and respectful than mine."

THE prince became silent after this declaration; and the princess, who loved him too much not to be fired with jealousy at such an acknowledgment, resolving to find out her rival, said to him, "I plainly see, Tideric, how discreet you are, for you have acquainted
me

me with your mistress's perfections ; but you conceal her name and your success."

" WHAT you suppose, madam, is not the reason (answered Tideric) why I do not relate the whole. I have learned to know myself, and that is sufficient to prevent my ever attempting to proceed farther with regard to the lady I have been speaking of.—In short her merit is so great, and Tideric's so small, that I believe he can never mistake himself so far as to dare to reveal his passion to her."

" SURE (replied Catharine, who wanted to draw a declaration from him) this lady must be of a very high rank, to require so severe a reserve from a prince. For my part I can't think of any that should lay him under any such restraint."

" I am not, madam, replied Tideric, of your opinion ; I know but too well

"WHAT mean you by a great deal more?" said the princess.

"I chuse, madam, (answered Tideric) that my love should become known to her by my actions, rather than words.—And I shall think myself happy if ever I can, by a most respectful behaviour, engage that beautiful person to pity my cruel destiny."

THE princess, who had not hitherto imagined Frederic pointed at her, began now to suspect herself to be the person; and being desirous to have the matter cleared up, "Prince," said she, "your manner of reasoning is not very just; I should take other measures were I in your place; for a lover who understands how to touch the heart of his mistress by his silence, can never disoblige her by declaring his passion, when he knows how

how to do it in a manner polite and genteel."

" I doubt much, madam, replied the prince, your being in earnest upon this head ; and you might possibly be very much embarrassed were such an affair to happen to yourself."

THESE expressions confirmed still more the princess in her suspicions ; however, she resolved to put an end to all doubts, therefore she resumed the discourse, and said, " Tideric, I see you do not know me, for I never say what I do not think ; and the aversion I have publickly shewn against this marriage that is proposed to the king my father, ought to convince you that I am an enemy to all kind of dissimulation."

THIS acknowledgement of the princess made Tideric alter his design of concealing the object of his love. He saw he should never have a more favourable opportunity of declaring himself, and em-

" THEN, madam, says he, I must believe you; besides, the pain I endure is so great, that I can contain myself no longer. I must confess my presumption, but I must at the same time acknowledge, that I adore you. None but the princess Catharine could touch the heart of the prince of Wales. Yes, madam, his heart has ever been insensible for all but you. Such is my unhappy fate, that I live to see every thing torn from me by a king of England. Let him enjoy the fruits of my defeat, but let him not deprive me of the sight of my amiable princess."

TIDERIC stopt here, but explain'd the rest by so much love and passion in his eyes, that Catharine could give no attention to the feeble voice of an expiring pride, which endeavoured to disguise the sentiments of her heart. She made him comprehend her thoughts by her looks. But being at length over-

come, " Alas ! why did you not speak sooner ? what made you delay discovering what would have been so agreeable to me at another time ? Yes, prince, I would have heard you willingly, and I should not now perhaps have so great an antipathy to this English alliance had I never known you. But take care not to put any constructions to my disadvantage upon an acknowledgement so sincere. Make what use you can of it to break off this intended marriage ; solicit your friends ; do your utmost to put a stop to the progress of an alliance which must render my life miserable, if it succeeds."

" Ah ! madam, (answered Tideric) how happy do you make me by such a generous instance of your goodness.—But this happiness will be of small duration by the many obstacles I foresee : for what can I do upon this occasion ? You are sensible that the house of Orleans hath at this time the better of that of Burgundy, to which

which I have attached myself ; and that I have not the least interest with those who have now the conducting of state affairs. But have not you, madam, of yourself power sufficient to refuse agreeing to that which is against your inclinations ; and must you ask assistance from a person who expects every thing from you ? ”

“ WHAT would you have me do ? replied the princess ; are not you enough acquainted with the duty expected from a person of my rank, to know the incapacity I am under ? No, Tideric, expect nothing farther from me ; I have an esteem for you, and something more ; but if it be resolved on, I shall let myself be conducted a sacrifice to the altar ; for I had rather it should be said, that Catharine is unhappy, than that she has been deficient in her duty.

WELL, madam, replied Tideric, you are resolv'd then I should die ; you shall

shall be obeyed. It is the only resource I have left in my misfortunes." "Do not add to my oppression; (answered the princess) it is cruel to augment the anguish and anxiety I am under. Try rather, if you love me, what you can do for my relief. Love is fruitful in intrigues, for attaining its end. Nothing is impossible with him that truly loves."

C H A P. II.

HERE ended the conversation of these two lovers: they parted extremely well satisfied with one another, but with very little hopes of better fortune. However, Tideric got it whisper'd among the courtiers, that the marriage proposed by Henry with Catharine, was not only disadvantageous, but dishonourable to France; that Henry was the son but of an usurper; that tho' the house of York had been stript of the crown, it was still powerful enough to have a fair chance for re-

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mounting the throne ; and in short, that
the last words of Henry to his son should
make him think of restoring to others
their right, rather than to form ridicu-
lous projects, such as that he had now
proposed by his ambassadors.

DISCOURSES like these were in every
body's mouth. I cannot say whether
they had any effect on the council, or
whether the demands of the English
appear'd unreasonable, but the conse-
quence was, that the ambassadors re-
turn'd to England without concluding
any thing.

IT would be very difficult to express
the joy and satisfaction our lovers con-
ceived at this unexpected success, since
they took care to conceal it from all
but themselves. Such was their hap-
py state, and they began to bury all
their passed uneasiness in mutual profes-
sions of love, when suddenly they saw
themselves exposed more than ever to
the cruelties of Fortune.

HENRY,

HENRY, incensed at the refusal of Catharine, raised a numerous army, with which he crossed the seas, and landed in Normandy. This province he laid waste with fire and sword ; and after besieging some places, which he carried, he marched towards Calais, where happened the famous battle of Azincourt, of which he reaped the whole advantage. After that victory he ravaged all Picardy, and laid siege to the city of Rouen, which it was not doubted he would soon be master of.

THOSE who then had the administration of the affairs of France, being surprized at the rapid progress of his arms, thought it high time to put a stop to this prince's conquests ; and after many debates, it was resolved, in order to appease the conqueror, and save the kingdom, to send ambassadors to his camp, and sue for peace, with an offer of Catharine in marriage, the consequence of which was

the appointment of a conference between the two kings in Mulan-park.

WHAT a thunderbolt was this to our lovers, as appeared visibly in the countenance of both. Tideric, as soon as he saw Catharine, began to exclaim, "O ! my princess, must I then this day lose you for ever ! has my cruel Fate given me only this short respite, that I might more intimately know the inestimable worth of her whom she had designed for another ? Why did you not continue cruel ; or rather, why are you kind but by halves ? How can you love tenderly, as you say, and resolve thus to abandon the object of your love ? "

" Ah, Tideric ! spare me a little, replied the princess ; my torments are too violent, and your reproaches too unjust for me to bear. My grief is of itself insupportable. Let us be unhappy, since Heaven decrees it ; but don't let us ourselves contribute to the forfeiture of

of that esteem we have for one another ; you by proposing what is inconsistent with my honour, and I by hearing you with patience. I have so great an inclination to listen to you, that I ought to suspect my own strength ; and I have so often pleased myself with thinking on the satisfaction I should have in living with you, that I dread the horrors I shall be surrounded with in living with any other. Instead of making me reflect upon what I shall be exposed to, rather assist me to overcome myself. Believe me, prince, upon this occasion I am truly to be pitied ; for I have already called all my virtue to my assistance, yet still I stand in need of help, in order to triumph over my weakness."

I own, madam, (said the prince) your sentiments add to the veneration I have for you : they are such as could proceed from none but the most generous princess that ever was ; but you will allow, that if my soul be not so great, it may at least be more tender

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than your's. — I am in the wrong to press you so much, for it suits ill with a prince who has nothing but hopes for his lot, to desire a princess to reject the offer of a crown. A crown, madam, has unconceiveable charms, and indeed it would be but of small value, could it be supposed, that a lady would reject it, to follow the fortune of Tideric."

THESE words he pronounced with such coldness, that the princess plainly perceived he was become jealous. This unhappy passion she wanted to remove ; and looking upon him with a tender concern, said, " Of what, prince, do you suspect me ? have I given you any such instance of my ambition, that you should thus express yourself ? Banish far from you these thoughts, if you have the least regard for your own repose ; and if you will endeavour to preserve mine, make use of all your art to defeat the success of what is to be treated of at this interview between the two kings. You may do something, and you are in
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so good terms with the house of Burgundy, which hath now reassumed the government of the state, as to hope for success by its assistance."

THESE words restored confidence to the prince, who threw himself at Catharine's feet, and said, "Pardon, madam, an unhappy lover, who is distract ed by his misfortunes; and believe it to be exceeding difficult to be so transported with love, without being touched with a little jealousy. Yes, my dear charming princess, I will go instantly and employ all the friends I have, to prevent this fatal marriage; and where my own happiness is so deeply concerned, you must be convinced I can forget nothing that may contribute to its never being thought of more."

HE left the princess directly, and going to the duke of Burgundy, found that prince more afflicted at France's misfortunes than most people imagined. Upon finding him resolved to contrive

all the means that could be thought of for its preservation, “ I heartily rejoice, my lord, (said Tideric) to find you entertaining such great and satisfactory designs. I now doubt not in the least but that the kingdom may be saved, since you have undertaken her defence. But remember that no time is to be lost, to prevent such an odious treaty, which the king’s misfortunes may possibly oblige him to submit to ; and if once concluded, what remedy is there ? or how can France be raised to her former glory ? ”

“ YOUR highness is in the right ; (answered the duke of Burgundy) but there are many things to be settled before I can be in a condition to act as I could wish.”

“ WHERE is the difficulty ? (said Tideric) for if you were but reconciled with the Dauphin, could you not unite your forces to make head against the common enemy of your country ? ”

“ Yes ;

“ Yes ; (answered the duke) but the great difficulty is, how to bring that about.”

“ If you think proper, (replied Tideric) I will endeavour it ; and I am persuaded I shall find less difficulty than you imagine.”

“ You will oblige me very much, (answered the duke) and I shall always be ready to do whatever is consistent with my honour and duty.”

TIDERIC took leave directly of the duke of Burgundy, and went to the Dauphin’s, in whom he found the same disposition he had left the duke in. He took that opportunity to reconcile them, in appearance, and thus obtained a suspense of his own misfortunes, at least for some time.

THE reconciliation of these two princes gave France some hopes ; but

as a suspension of arms had been agreed on, and a personal conference of the two kings appointed to be held, as before mentioned, in Mulan-park, in order the more to facilitate a peace, this could not be prevented ; and as the distress of France would be a strong argument on one side, not to reject any reasonable terms, and the ardent desire with which Henry might probably be inflamed by a sight of Catharine's amiable person, would on his side be as strong an argument not to propose any thing that was unreasonable, it was to be feared, that even the duke of Burgundy, with all his interest, would not be able to prevent the conclusion of a peace, and the immediate celebration of the intended marriage.

THIS continued the anxiety of our two lovers ; and while they were under this torture, the two kings met at the place appointed, attended by their respective courts. The queen followed, as had been agreed on, with her daughter

ter the princess Catharine ; who could find no excuse for not attending her mother, without raising suspicions that might be injurious to her character.

THE English could not help looking upon her with admiration ; and there was but very few that escaped feeling the dangerous consequence of so near a view of so amiable and accomplish'd a princess. But amongst all those who expressed their surprize at so exquisite a beauty, no one was more sensibly touched than the duke of Gloucester.

THIS prince was the king of England's brother, and by his rank at court had the most considerable share in the management and direction of state-affairs. He no sooner beheld Catharine, than he became transported with her charms, and resolved to impart to her his passion ; but as that princess's marriage was to be one of the first articles to be settled by this treaty, he thought there was no time to be lost, therefore he took the

first opportunity to wait upon the queen, where he was sure of seeing the princess; and fortune gave him an opportunity of speaking to her without danger of being overheard by any.

" It is so difficult a matter, madam, to see you, (said the duke of Gloucester) without being deeply smitten, that I can't think you'll be much surprized when I tell you, that you see a prince who is absolutely at your disposal. It is not by a number of words that I shall pretend to prove this, but my actions will convince you of the reality of my intentions, beyond all the speeches and protestations I can make. Therefore, madam, consider well, in what manner you think proper to employ me; and believe, that I have interest enough at the conference which is to be held this day, to turn matters on which side I please."

THE princess was so surprized at such an unexpected compliment, which she really did not well comprehend, that it caused

caused her to remain silent some time, not knowing what answer to return. But having recovered herself, she said, "Sir, nothing can be more obliging than you are. It is not common for enemies to offer to turn their arms against themselves; but, however, you are in no danger upon that head, for I am not such a person as would make use of these civilities at your expence, by seeking the advantage of my country in any action that would in the least tarnish your glory."

I plainly see, madam, (replied the duke) that I have not expressed myself clearly enough to be understood. It is not in favour of the king your father that I make you this offer, nor does it relate to the interest of my prince's crown, but to that of his heart. There is, I believe, no occasion for any further explanation. Consult yourself with regard to the interest of your own, and if the inclinations Henry hath for your person are not agreeable, make no scruple

ple to discover your mind to me, since it is in my power to do you some service. A prince who would lay down his life to contribute any thing towards your satisfaction, will not find great difficulty to set aside what possibly you may think, would render you unhappy."

"I am much more obliged to you than I thought, (replied the princess) since you now apply to me alone those compliments, which I imagined related to others as well as me.—But, Sir, were my inclinations contrary to the alliance which is to be treated of this day, you are sensible it would be indecent in me to let them appear; for a princess born as I am, ought with pleasure to sacrifice herself for the good of the state."

TAKE care, madam, (said the duke of Gloucester) that you do not deceive yourself, by embracing the shadow instead of the substance of virtue. I know very well, that when we have once chosen,

chosen, and are fixed, we ought to suffer any thing rather than retreat ; but when nothing has been resolved on, the case is quite different. We may surely, before things are brought to a conclusion, refuse complying with what might make us unhappy the rest of our days.

THERE is nothing (replied Catharine) but what ought to be agreeable to a princess ; for the heart of persons of that rank should be of the same nature with wax, ready to receive such impressions as their sovereign may judge necessary for the advantage and grandeur of his crown."

THESE, madam, are fine sentiments, (answered the duke) but fate will sometimes set itself in opposition to such generosity : for as fate inspires us with love, or with aversion, at its pleasure, so do we often conceive a hatred for what is design'd, and an inclination for what is deny'd us. It would therefore be much better, madam, to make your-

self mistress of your own fortune, without affecting the appearance of any extraordinary degree of self-resignation ; which you may do this day, if you please to make use of the assistance offered you, for preventing, for what I know, your being made unhappy."

" WHAT ! (said Catharine) have I nothing, Sir, to answer for but appearances?—and can a princess be easy in her own mind, while she has any thing to reproach herself with ?"

" IN fine, madam, (said the duke) I plainly see, that I cannot convince you by any reasons I can offer ; and that you may as easily triumph over my understanding as you have already triumphed over my heart. But reflect a little upon what I have said, and think it not a trifling matter, because upon what you now resolve on depends your being either happy or unhappy the remainder of your life."

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THE duke then took his leave in the most respectful manner, and retired to his camp, leaving Catharine in the deepest meditation upon what he had said to her. She considered what inducement he could have to speak in the manner he did, and concluded, that it proceeded from some little esteem he might have for her. She found herself extremely perplexed how to determine upon this occasion. For on one side it would have given her great pleasure, to find, that nothing succeeded at the conference; and, on the other, she was desirous to avoid all opportunities of being in any shape obliged to the duke of Gloucester, because it would lay her under an obligation to shew him that complaisance, which he would naturally expect, when he found he could render himself serviceable to her. At last she determined not to trust to her own opinion, but presently wrote a full account of the conversation she had with the duke, to her beloved Tideric, whom the French policy had obliged to remain

The LIFE of
remain at Paris, lest his presence might
have furnished the English with a
plausible pretence for breaking off the
conferences.

TIDERIC had reason to be pleased
with Catharine's conduct: however, he
could not help being a little touched
with jealousy, but by his reason he soon
got the better of that chimera; and
not only advised the princess to make
use of the duke's offer, but even not to
be sparing in her intreaties, if she found
it needful, to prevail with him to break
off the conference, from which they
had both so much to fear.

CATHARINE made no hesitation, af-
ter having received Tideric's consent,
but resolved, within herself, the next
visit she should receive from the duke,
to declare her sentiments freely to him.

IN the mean time the duke of Glo-
cester could not so easily determine
how he was to act, as the princess Ca-
tharine

tharine had done; for tho' she had dropt no expression that could enable him to penetrate her private sentiments, yet he supposed, that her rejecting what he had offered, proceeded from her ambition, rather than from any inclination she had for the king his brother. He then began to consider what might be most agreeable to himself, whether she should marry the young prince his brother, or that he should contrive methods for preventing the marriage; and his first resolution was, to leave the affair to take its own course, because he thought it would be better for him to see Catharine the wife of his brother, than to leave her in France, where he should never see her more. But as we usually never despair, whilst there is the least foundation for hope, the duke came immediately to a resolution directly contrary to that he had formed the moment before. He considered, that his view to the crown was not very remote, and joining a great deal of love to a little ambition, he began to fancy

fancy that he might hope for the enjoyment of her whom he was going to abandon to another, in case he suffered the conferences to proceed any further.

THIS consideration was of itself sufficient for determining him as to the part he was to act ; and tho' in this he regarded more his own interest than that of the princess, yet nevertheless he resolved to make a merit of it with her ; and going to pay her a visit, after the compliments usual among persons of such rank, " Well, madam, fays he, are you of the same opinion as when I saw you last, and do you still think, that in order to preserve a character, we are always obliged to do what is quite contrary to our inclination ? You have had time to think of it, and pardon me, if I tell you, madam, that with the gifts nature has so bountifully bestowed on you, it would be downright obstinacy to continue in the the same way of thinking."

" How

" How pressing you are ! (replied the princess) and cannot you see one resolve to do what duty prescribes, without making them reflect upon what it will cost them ? I was going to conform myself to what I thought my duty, without considering the consequences ; and Catharine had never known what it was to discover to any one her inclinations, if a prince had not in such a civil and obliging manner persuaded her, that once in our lives it was necessary for our future repose, to have a will of our own."

" Yes, madam, it is I who now tell it you again, (answered the duke) and I thank heaven for having opened your eyes with regard to an affair of such importance as that now in question. Consider what misfortunes you are going to expose yourself to, by pursuing a false notion of honour ; and how much you must have regreted your being yourself the cause of all your sufferings.

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ings. When a princess endued with so much spirit and good sense as you are blessed with, is forced into a marriage founded upon nothing but political views, how much is she to be pitied ? How much do I condemn the conduct of the great princes of this world, who, without consulting their inclination, daily sacrifice themselves to some weak reason of state ? How much do they over-rate that vain glory they resolved to acquire at the expence of their love ? and how often do they feel a bitter remorse, for having deprived themselves of those sweet enjoyments that are to be found in an union of hearts. Ah ! madam, is there a sting more severe than that of a secret and self reproach ? And when we are in our senses, and have our discretion about us, is there any thing we ought to covet more than that extatick pleasure which is to be found only in a sincere and mutual passion ? ”

“ O !

" O ! my lord, (replied the princess) do not, I pray, let us enter too deep upon this subject ; I should be afraid of coming off with confusion. For one reason that may be of my side, there are so many others that would make the world disapprove my conduct, that I should perhaps be the first to condemn myself. We ought not to think too much upon what we are prompted to by inclination rather than duty ; and the way to return soon to our duty is, to be convinced, that we forsook it with a very bad grace."

MADAM, (says the duke) I do not at all distrust the justice of my cause ; for I could vindicate it against the whole world. But I shall talk no more of it ; only I must beg of you to consider, that my conduct with regard to my sovereign ought not to be so much blamed as perhaps it will ; since the rules of duty and the ties of blood are to be counted as nothing, when one has been deeply struck
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by eyes so killing as yours. Yes, madam, it is they that are to direct the negotiation at the conference ; and if the duke of Gloucester had never seen them, he would have had no other thought than that of facilitating a reasonable accommodation, in order to prevent those streams of blood that are going to flow from this rupture."

" O, for God's sake, my lord, (cries the princess) leave the affair to take its course, rather than that I should be the cause of so many misfortunes."

" IT is not to you, madam, (answers the duke) that the disorders which are about to ensue, ought to be imputed. The duke of Gloucester will have the greatest share in it : It is his love that is going to be the cause of events that will set Europe in a gaze ; and his passion is of itself sufficient to produce those great effects, tho' you had never given your consent."

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" I withdraw it ; (cries the princess) I should chuse to pass my whole life in torment, rather than allow, that so many creatures should be made unhappy, on account of any one's love for me."

" I wish to God, (answers the prince) that you felt as much for the duke of Gloucester, as you feel for those you do not know ; and that what I now suffer in reality, raised your compassion as much, as the sufferings of others, which are as yet but in imagination. How heartily should I expose myself to the most cruel torments, how well should I think myself recompensed, could the princess Catharine but one day say, It is for me that the duke of Gloucester has sacrificed his country ; he would always have had the same regard for the interest of his king, as for that of his own, had he never fallen in love with me.—But I am in the wrong, madam, to think of recompence before I have done any thing to deserve it ; and I should be inexcusable if it were not that

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my imagination prevents the services I intend to render you, and the idea presents itself in such a lively manner to my mind, that I fancy I have already laid you under an obligation of making some acknowledgment to me."

AFTER these words he was silent, and his silence embarrassed the princess, who had not yet thought of an answer. But after recollecting herself a little, she spoke thus: "Your having done me all the services you talk of, is not necessary, my lord, for making me sensible how much I am obliged to you; and from the polite manner in which you have already treated me, I should be guilty of the utmost ingratitude, did I not acknowledge the great obligations I am under towards you. Time will furnish me with the means of shewing my thankfulness; and till then, believe me, my lord, that I am not by nature inclined to forget the favours I have received."

THE

THE duke thanked the princess for the testimonies she gave him of her goodness, and after adding a thousand pretty things concerning his passion, he took his leave, in order to go about putting in execution what he had promised her : And he took care to neglect nothing that was necessary for the purpose ; for he managed so artfully the minds of those he had to do with, that the English added such a number of new demands, to those they had already made at the beginning of the congress, that it was entirely broke up. Both parties then began to prepare for all sorts of hostilities allowed of in war ; and the duke of Gloucester, after having paid a visit to the princess, and made new protestations of his love, followed the court of his sovereign.

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TIDERIC and the princess having been thus delivered from the apprehensions which these long negotiations had thrown them into, they began to consider of the most proper measures for guarding against future ; and after the most mature deliberation, they both concluded, that in order to have nothing more to fear, it was necessary to try every method for getting their design approved of. They agreed at last upon what was proper to be done for securing success ; and it was resolved, that Tideric should use all his art for getting into the good graces of madam de Giac, a lady who had a great ascendant over the duke of Burgundy, and to whom the Dauphin likewise made his addresses secretly.

TIDERIC found no great difficulty in gaining the favour of this lady ; but she

she judged it as yet imprudent to mention the affair of his love, as she thought, that whilst the kingdom was every where in such confusion, it was a time very unfit for a nuptial ceremony ; and she was in the right ; for what would the people have thought of giving a new provocation to the king of England ? Would it not have been said to be a design to set the whole kingdom of France in a flame, which it was too much already, to marry Catharine to another, after having refused her to a prince whose love had perhaps contributed more than his ambition to the present war ? Madam de Giac brought even Tideric himself over to her sentiments ; and she promised him, that whilst she had any credit at court, nothing prejudicial to his interest should be resolved on.

THESE assurances gave the prince some consolation ; and he apprised Catharine of every thing that had passed between him and that lady. They

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were both satisfied, as they saw it was then impossible to do better ; but the little repose they enjoyed was soon interrupted by great troubles. Tideric, who continued to visit madam de Giac, and to neglect nothing that might testify his attachment to her, soon overacted his part, at least in the imagination of Catharine ; and her jealousy was increased by some busy talebearers, who assured her that Tideric was in love with that lady ; and that he was not disappointed, for that she was as fond of him as he could be of her.

THESE reports had as great an effect as could be expected ; and as that princess most tenderly loved Tideric, she highly resented his supposed infidelity. Tideric soon perceived that she had something at heart, and having nothing to reproach himself with, he accosted her with that open countenance which is the constant companion of a clear conscience.

“ WHAT

"WHAT, madam, says he, does not fortune load us with afflictions enough, and while she lets us enjoy some sort of ease, must we contribute to render ourselves unhappy? Whence comes this change which I see in the countenance of my princess? and does she not know, that Tideric cannot see there the least sign of grief, without feeling at the same time the most cruel fit of sorrow?"

HE said no more; and he had not the least expectation of any reproach, when the princess, looking sternly at him, said, "Do you yet pretend to deceive me? and do you think that I am not enough acquainted with your perfidy to distrust whatever you can say?"

"WHAT, madam! (replies Tideric) Does my princess accuse me? Can she suspect my being deficient in any thing I owe to my love? Ah! madam, (continues he) there is no more comfort for me. To have displeased you but

THESE words which he pronounced in the most tender manner, gave Catharine a good deal of pain ; and as she wished to find that he could justify himself, she resolved to give him an opportunity ; therefore, resuming the discourse, she said, " What, prince, I am in the wrong then, am I ? and can you pretend you have any great love for me, when you leave me for madam de Giac ? Is it not her that is the cause of your almost thinking no more of a princess, who, if she had been allowed, would have sacrificed every thing to follow you ; and yet nevertheless to me there seems to be some difference between her and me : Any one who had the least tenderness in his heart, would put a very great difference between a coquettish lady, and a princess who knows not what it is to be artful."

TIDERIC

TIDERIC had some difficulty to prevent his interrupting the princess, but finding she had done, " What, madam, (says he, in a surprize) I love madam de Giac ! upon what, I beg of you, could you found such a suspicion ? Have I a thought but for my princess ; and the indifference which people see I have for the rest of the sex, is it not a proof that you are the sole and whole mistress of my soul ? Was it not you, madam, that obliged me to visit madam de Giac ? and supposing you were not in my eyes the most beautiful princess the world ever beheld, do you think I could indulge a passion for a lady whom I know to be otherwise engaged, or that Tideric would not be proud enough to disdain a heart which he must hold in partnership with the duke of Burgundy ?

" THE conduct of princes (replies Catharine) is often guided by a little love and a great deal of policy ; and, to most people, that seems founded on

true love, which at bottom is nothing but ambition."

"BANISH, madam, (says Tideric) that thought from your breast: No one can answer with greater confidence upon that head than I can. I have a just sense of your high birth; but if I suspected, that you would entertain the addresses of any other, I should value you as nothing: In the levity of your mind, I should find an effectual cure for the deepest wound received from the beauties of your person."

"WHY then (replies the princess) should you blame me, for finding fault with your intriguing with two ladies at a time? or why should not I upon this head be as delicate as you?"

"AH! madam, (answers the prince) do you think the wounds you have given me are not dangerous enough, without adding poison to them? Have not I told you, that I should never have

visited madam de Giac, if you had not given me your orders? And if you as well as I had not thought, that she might be useful to us in our affair, you know that I should never have thought of paying her a visit. But since you are seeking a breach with me upon so frivolous a pretence as this, I shall leave you to judge from the consequences what was my concern with that lady." —

" I am not seeking (says the princess, interrupting him) to break with you: I am so far from desiring to find you guilty, that nothing could give me greater joy than to be convinced of your innocence."

THEY said, besides, a thousand soft things to one another, and in short they came at last to a hearty reconciliation, so that they parted as much satisfied with each other as they had ever been before. However, the prince resolved to pay no more visits to the lady who

had been the cause of their quarrel ; and he persisted so long in this resolution, that he seemed to have a presentiment of the misfortune that was to happen to him from that quarter. But the princess soon repented of having interrupted a correspondence so necessary for their designs. She was the first to beg of the prince to renew it ; and it was not till after it had like to have occasioned a new quarrel, that the prince would consent to renew his visits to madam de Giac.

IN a few days after, he went and paid her a visit ; and it required no long time to regain the place he had formerly had in her esteem. She even placed a greater confidence in him than she had ever done before ; and as he had concealed from her nothing of what he had most at heart, she resolved to do the same by him : She even imparted to him the affection she had for the duke of Burgundy. Tideric with pleasure took part in this intrigue ; believing

ing it to be the best method for obliging both these lovers to take the more care of his affairs. He was often of great service in the little squabbles that happened between them ; and the duke of Burgundy, not to be behind hand with his friend, took also great care to be of service to him with the princess Catharine ; and when occasion offered, he did all he could to persuade that princess, that he would always, to the utmost of his power, endeavour to prevent any thing being done that might be of prejudice to their views of love.

THEY a'l lived in a sweet enough tranquillity, when that cursed passion which had already occasioned so much uneasiness to our lovers, compleated the ruin of their hopes. Madam de Giac most tenderly loved the duke ; and as it is essential to jealousy to be alarmed at every shadow, this lady fancied that the duke had an affection for the countess de Foix, and of course supposed, that every little civility he shewed

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ed to that lady, was a proof of his love. She even imagined, that he had no longer any thing but a coldness for her ; and it is impossible to describe what ravages these thoughts made in her mind. At last she became most furiously jealous ; and, thinking that the duke ought to sacrifice every thing for her, she treated him with such haughtiness, that the unhappy lover, after suffering many insults, was obliged to forsake her, without having ever been able to learn the cause of his misfortune.

TIDERIC had no sooner intimation of what passed, than he endeavoured to reconcile them ; but he found them on both sides so exasperated against each other, that when he spoke of the affair to the duke, he could draw from him no more than that madam de Giac was an ingrate, and from that lady he returned as little satisfied, for [she would give him nothing for answer, but that he did not know his friend, who was downright a traitor. He tried to soften their

their passion, but in this he had as little success, so that he was obliged to leave them both to themselves, without having learned any thing more than that they were both extremely enraged.

HOWEVER, as he was not ignorant of what frequently happens between lovers, he was not much surprized at all this: He believed, that a few days would put an end to their difference; and that it was best to give them time of themselves to recover that tenderness they had formerly had for each other. He neglected not to see them daily; but he avoided talking to them any more of their contest; as he thought that a tête à tête conversation would operate more towards a reconciliation, than all that he could say to them.

THUS matters stood for some days, and Tideric beginning to apprehend that it would be more difficult to adjust them, than he at first imagined; and that this difference, if it continued, might be

be of the most fatal consequence to him and the princess Catharine, he did not think it proper to let these two lovers accustom themselves to this coldness ; and he resolved the sooner to try what could be done, as he knew that the duke and he were that very evening to set out upon a little progress. For this reason he went directly to wait on madam de Giac, and accosting her with the most lively picture of grief in his countenance, “ Well, madam, (says he) will you always continue to afflict your friends? and supposing you should have no regard for them, can you any longer behold the sufferings of a prince whom your cruelty has reduced to despair ? The duke of Burgundy is no more himself : He may pretend as much as he will to affect a false gaiety : Through all his constraints we may read the pangs of his heart ; and one may soon see that he cannot be at ease, unless you alter your conduct in regard to him.”

“ You

“ You are mistaken, my lord, (answers madam de Giac) the duke is not so tender hearted as you imagine: After having offended me in so cruela manner, see if he has made so much as one step towards appeasing me: Were you in the place of a lady, what would you think of a lover who, upon any misunderstanding, should hold you at the staff’s end, with respect to the ceremony of making the first submission? ”

“ I should think, madam, (replies Tideric) that such a lover was most passionately fond of me, and that not being able to endure my having wrongfully accused him, he could not bear coming to a vindication, which is generally a sign of guilt.”

“ You spend your time in vain, my lord; (answers madam de Giac) and whatever pains you may take to justify your friend, you cannot persuade me that he loves me, since after having
pro-

promised me never more to see madam de Foix, he nevertheless continues to visit her with more assiduity than ever."

" Ah ! madam, (replies Tideric) is this all the crime the duke has been guilty of ? How, do you think, can he avoid those civilities which a lady of her quality has a right to expect ? and besides, are they not due to the attachment which that lady's spouse has always shewn for the interest of the duke ?"

" Does he owe nothing to me, (answers madam de Giac) who have done more for him than either the house of Foix, or my own ? Monsieur and madam de Foix have attached themselves to the duke of Burgundy, because they found their account in it ; but for me, I have sacrificed the friendship of my husband, and even what I owed to my own character, for the sake of attaching myself to his person alone."

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I know, madam, (replied Tideric) that the duke is obliged to you; but I also know, that he is far from being backward in acknowledging it; and if you should come to an explanation with him upon that subject, you would be the first to acknowledge, that you have very improperly taken the alarm. Try only, if what I say be true, and you will find that you have no sooner made one step than the duke will make two."

"WHAT! (cries madam de Giac) must I make the first advance? Truly, my lord, I always hitherto took you for my friend, but now I do not know what to think, you have just given me such an advice as ought to make me doubt it extremely."

"I have told you, madam, (answers the prince coldly) what I should do myself were I in your place. You know that if we will entertain a correspondence with people, we must generally become a little tractable, and accommodate

date ourselves to their humours. You are well enough acquainted with the duke of Burgundy to know, that he cannot easily bring himself to submit, when he thinks he has reason of his side. In this affair he is persuaded that you are to blame; and you are thereupon to consider what part to act."

" WHAT a cruel thing it is to be in love; (cries madam de Giac) and must we for pleasures which consist only in the imagination, submit to be controlled in our will? Well then, my prince, I must believe you, and I will disclaim nothing of what you may think proper to say as from me, to the duke of Burgundy, upon the progress you are to make with him."

" THAT is not enough, madam, (says Tideric) you ought to write to him; for a lover does not always give credit even to his friend in what he may say to him as from his mistress; and

and when any little broil happens between them, he is suspicious of every thing that may be said upon that head. He often imagines that people conceal from him his misfortune; and however circumstantial they may be, if they have nothing in writing to support what they say, it persuades him much more of the friendship of him who speaks to him, than of the sincerity of her who was the cause of his torment."

" You desire too much, my prince, (answers madam de Giac) and to make use of your own terms, do you shew yourself a little tractable? Consider that what I have already done, is for a lady, as much as she ought to do."

" I agree with you, madam, (replies Tideric) but since you have already gained so far on yourself, do not stop, I beg, madam, at what remains, which is but a meer trifle. Do not refuse this satisfaction to the duke of Burgundy who adores you."

TALK

"TALK no more of it, my prince, (cries madam de Giac.) You ought not to desire of your friends any thing more than what I have done. If people are reasonable, I have done enough; and it is from their own conduct alone they can expect any other marks of my complaisance."

TIDERIC made still some more efforts to bring her to what he desired, but finding it was all in vain, he took his leave, after having begged of her to reflect upon what he had said. He was scarcely got out of the house, when she began to meditate upon it, and she soon repented of her haughtiness. She even began to consider, that princes would not be treated like those of inferior rank; and that none ought to engage themselves in an intrigue with persons of that rank, if they were not resolved to bear with a thousand little conceits, which they were free from in other engagements.

THESE

THESE considerations had a greater effect upon her mind than all that Tideric had said to her. She immediately called for pen, ink, and paper ; and had but just sealed her letter, when that prince's secretary, who had been told that his master was at her house, came thither in search of him. Madam de Giac happened by chance at that instant to look out at the window, and seeing him, asked, who that gentleman was. Upon being informed that he belonged to Tideric, she ordered to call him up to her ; and as she was impatient for Tideric's having her letter, without directing it, she gave it to his secretary to carry to him.

THE secretary went presently to the hotel where his master lodged, and not finding him there, he supposed he should hear of him at the princess Catharine's. He found her just stepping into her coach, and was going to retire ; but she knowing that he belonged to Tideric,
and

and perceiving that he was in search of some one, ordered him to be called, and asked him, who it was he wanted. The secretary without scruple told her, he wanted his master, and that he had something to tell him, and likewise a letter to deliver to him from madam de Giac.

THESE last words pierced the heart of the princess : She that moment felt all the fire of jealousy which that lady had before occasioned, rekindle in her breast ; and being resolved to discover whether it was well founded or no, “ Let me have that letter, (says she to the secretary.) Your master is not now here ; he is just set out with the duke of Burgundy, and I will take care he shall have it by a couier that is to be sent after them. There it is, madam ; (answers the secretary) and in putting it into her hand, he told her, that she would free him from a great anxiety, as he could not carry it himself, without putting

putting off a journey he was ordered upon about his master's busines.

THE princess took care to let nothing of what she had at heart appear. She even would not return to her apartment, for fear of raising some suspicion about this letter; and having shortened her devotions at the church she was going to, she returned home, where she was no sooner arrived, than she shut herself up in her closet, and pulling this fatal letter out of her pocket, she opened it, and read as follows :

MY PRINCE;

If to be extremely jealous, be a sign of being infinitely in love, there is nothing can come near to that of mine. But who can prevent having a suspicion, when there is so much ground for it as you have given me? Who is she that would pardon the affection you so plainly shew for another? Do not pretend to satisfy me with political reasons, which some have already en-

E deavoured

deavoured to pass upon me. That is a coin which will not pass with so clear-fighted a lover as I am. I know the difference between attachments of policy and those of love ; and when I am convinced that you have none of the latter but with me, you shall find me what heretofore I ever was,

Your most faithful,

And constant admirer.

C H A P. IV. .

THIS letter being without any direction, had almost made the poor prince's die of grief. She did not in the least doubt but that it was designed for Tideric ; and feeling her heart torn to pieces by the rage of jealousy, “ What, Tideric ! (cries she in an instant) Is this the return thou mak’st for that sincere love I had for thee ? Those testimonies which thou wast so pressing to

to give me of thine, were they cruelly designed for nothing but the more to deceive me? Is this, perfidious! the fruit of the promises thou hast made me? and what is become of those oaths which thou didst render agreeable to me by a thousand assurances never to cease loving me? Ungrateful man! I do not desire thee to consider how much any other in thy place would have thought himself obliged to me. I desire only to convince thee by the tenderness of that heart which thou hast deceived, and which shall make thee confess, that thou hast behaved like the most villainous of men."

SHE said no more, but by the settled sadness in her countenance one might have seen, that by these complaints her grief was no way asswaged. She pretended to be taken ill, in order that she might not be interrupted; and then again she renewed her complaints against the unhappy Tideric.

BUT if this letter made such an impression upon the mind of the tender-hearted princess, she was not the only one it made undergo the most cruel torments. Madam de Giac being ignorant of the fate of her letter, expected an answer from day to day, and every little noise she heard in her antichamber she believed to be a courier from the duke of Burgundy. It was some time before she could let herself believe that he had entirely forsaken her. But finding at last, that she had no answer from him, she no longer doubted of his inconstancy, and she became so confirmed in her suspicion, that she grew quite mad with jealousy. She complained full as bitterly against the duke, as the princess had done against Tideric; but she did not stop there; for as she thought she had more than ordinary grounds of complaint against her lover; and as to these she added her resentment of this mark of contempt, which she thought he had upon this last occasion

casion put upon her, she let her revenge transport her into sentiments quite inconsistent with the character of a woman in love ; and as she found a most extraordinary pleasure in these sentiments, she soon formed a design as extraordinary for satisfying her revenge.

IT is true, the love she had formerly had for the duke often recurred to her thoughts, and seemed sometimes to reproach her with the fatal resolution she had taken against him ; but in short these reflections had but little effect, and the thoughts of what he had lately committed getting the better of those dying sparks of love which still remained, she no longer gave ear to any thing but her resentment.

IN the mean time the Dauphin was informed of the misunderstanding that had happened between these two lovers. He was glad to take advantage of their squabble, and to succeed in it with the more ease, he took care to have several

The LIFE of
secret interviews with madam de Giac.
These two soon fell into the same way
of thinking ; for the Dauphin thought
he had reason to wish the duke no good,
and besides took umbrage at the too
great power he was possessed of ; and
he made no difficulty in opening his
mind to madam de Giac, and hinting
to her what a pleasure it would be to
him to find an opportunity for reveng-
ing himself.

THIS conformity in their passions
produced a most strict union between
them. They soon resolved upon the
destruction of that prince, and thought
no more but of the methods of execut-
ing the more easily their design. In
this they found great difficulty ; but the
duke himself opened them a way. He
was still as much in love with madam
de Giac as ever, and not being able
to bear any longer the impatience he
was under, for seeing her again, he
thought best to overlook any failings
she had been guilty of with respect to
him.

him. He wrote her a letter, in which he expressed his passion in so warm a manner, as would have made any other but her alter their way of thinking ; but she was so persuaded of the prince's inconstancy, that she did not so much as once reflect upon what had passed between her and the duke. However, she read this letter over and over again ; and pausing at that part of it where he begged of her to come and see him, " Yes, yes, perfidious wretch ! (says she) I shall go to see thee as thou desirest ; but it shall be to imitate, and to revenge myself of thy treachery."

SHE presently sent and desired the Dauphin to meet her at their usual place of rendezvous, when they had any thing to communicate to one another ; which that prince did not fail to do, and madam de Giac delivering into his hands the letter she had received from the duke, said thus : " My lord, there's a fine opportunity for catching the traitor. I must comply with his request,

I must go to see him. I know how to dissemble with him as well as he has done with me. Yes, my lord, (continues she) I can keep such a guard upon myself, that he shall not have the least ground to suspect what I have at heart ; and when we are together, it is your business to find some pretence for drawing him to what place you think convenient. I will manage it so as that he shall of himself fall into the trap ; and even tho' he should have a thousand presages of what is to happen to him, I know how to set him above all fear ; and thus without much trouble, I shall put you in a way of getting rid of any uneasiness he can ever give you."

THIS treachery at first appeared horrible to the Dauphin ; he bore indeed no good will towards the duke of Burgundy ; but he thought there was too much baseness in this way of revenging himself ; and it is certain he had never approved of it, if he had had to do with none but this lady ; but she got her scheme

scheme enforced by those she knew to have the greatest influence over his mind. They set before his eyes, in the strongest light, the ambition of the duke of Burgundy, and the design he had always appeared to have of rendering himself supreme. Then they made him recollect the murder of the duke of Orleans, and the carrying off the queen while she was at Tours; and they made him believe, that all the duke's actions tended to nothing less than that of securing to himself the crown. In short they knew so well how to come upon his blind side, that he let himself be drawn in to whatever they had a mind.

IT was therefore resolved, that while madam de Giac should be with the duke, the Dauphin should cause propose to him an interview, under colour of its being for the good of the publick, and that they should take that opportunity to rid themselves of him. No sooner was this resolved on than that lady set out upon her visit to the duke, who

received her most tenderly ; and without reproaching her in the least, he restored her to the same place in his heart she had before enjoyed. Madam de Giac therefore resolved on her part to avoid any sort of explanation, and to the duke's misfortune she said not a word to him of the letter which she imagined he had received by the hands of Tideric ; for had she discovered that he had not been guilty of that neglect, which had filled her heart with so much rage, it is not to be presumed, that she would have persisted in such a cruel resolution ; but as she made no such discovery, she looked upon the duke's making no excuse for that neglect as a new insult, which inflamed afresh her resentment.

Two days after, there arrived a courier from the Dauphin, as had been concerted ; and upon opening the packet, the duke found, that the Dauphin desired a conference with him at Monttereau, which gave him a good deal of uneasi-

uneasiness, as he was under some difficulty what answer to return ; for tho' he was well enough disposed to grant what was asked, in hopes that it might some way contribute to the good of the publick, yet nevertheless he had his fears, as he was conscious of having often given the Dauphin cause not to be satisfied with his conduct. He therefore thought it inconsistent with discretion to trust himself in the hands of that prince ; but madam de Giac came at the nick of time to dissipate his apprehensions.

SHE represented to him, that he would be answerable for all the misfortunes that might happen to France, if upon chimerical suspicions he refused an interview that might be of so much service to the publick ; and moreover, that he was in the wrong to distrust the Dauphin's word of honour, who having sincerely reconciled himself to him, might perhaps break off all future correspondence, when he found he had to do with a prince so suspicious.. These

reasons had greater weight than all that were given him for taking care to guard against the resentment of the Dauphin; therefore he dispatched a courier to that prince, to acquaint him, that he would not fail being at Montereau-Faut-yonne the day appointed.

IN short, it being impossible for him to avoid his destiny, he went thither accompanied by a few guards; but the journey proved fatal to him, for he was killed by the Dauphin's people, just as he alighted in order to go and pay his respects to the Dauphin, who waited for him upon the bridge.

THE death of the duke of Burgundy was a surprize to the whole kingdom of France. The Dauphin was generally, and by every one, charged with the murder; and by the great commotions upon that occasion, he soon saw how dearly he would be made to pay, for having followed such wicked counsels. Madam de Giac was in raptures for having

ing succeeded so well in her revenge ; but the unhappy Tideric, who foresaw the necessary consequences of that accident, was no sooner informed of it than he bemoaned it in the most grievous manner. He had never quitted the duke of Burgundy, until that prince set out upon his journey to Montereau ; and he took that opportunity to go to visit the princess, to whom he had wrote two letters, without receiving any answer. He could not comprehend from whence this happened ; and resolving to know the cause, he repaired to her apartment, the moment he arrived at Troyes, where the court then was.

HE found the princess in her closet, and expected to be received in the usual manner ; when Catharine, looking at him with eyes that darted fire, and in which the rage of her mind was most truly represented, “ Get you gone, traitor ! (cries she) go, make the most of the death of the duke of Burgundy : He will no more interrupt you in your amours :

amours : The interruption he gave to your pleasures has, I fear, cost him his life."

IT is impossible to express the effect these words produced in the soul of the unhappy Tideric. For some time he stood motionless, without knowing where he was, or what had befallen him ; after which, recovering a little, he attempted to ask the princess what she had to charge him with ; but she prevented him ; for as soon as he began to open his mouth, she started from her chair, " Get you hence, I say once more ; (cries she) and know, that I'll have no explanation with such a traitor." At the same time she flung open the door, and this unfortunate lover, seeing himself drove out by her he adored, was obliged to obey, without being ever able to prevail with her to hear one word in his justification.

IT is certain that the confusion he was in would have sufficiently pointed

out his innocence, even to the princess, if she had not been so prepossessed of his infidelity. But she had in her hands wherewithal to banish every doubt she could entertain upon that head ; and when any such presented itself to her mind, she would pull out of her pocket the fatal letter above mentioned, and casting her eye upon it, would cry, “ This is the sincere lover to whom all this is wrote : This is he who at the very time he was making me innumerable protestations of his love, was endeavouring to persuade another, that all his professions to me proceeded from nothing but meer policy. No, no, perfidious wretch ! (continued she) thou shalt no more deceive me. I know that I ought to distrust my own weakness ; and lest I should be imposed on by thy artifice, the surest way to prevent it is, never to have any sort of correspondence with thee.”

WHILST the princess entertained herself with these thoughts, and Tideric had

had no thought of any thing but despair, Philip, duke of Burgundy, who had succeeded his father, meditated a cruel revenge against the Dauphin. He assembled all those he thought in his interest, and having consulted with the wisest and most able, he sent one of his confidants to the king of England, and concluded an alliance with him, which brought France within an inch of its ruin. Most of the grandes declared themselves of his side; and they were the more easily induced thereto, as the duke made use of the king's name for authorising every thing he did. In short he did with that prince whatsoever he would; as he soon after made appear by an enterprize, in which he succeeded; for he not only concluded a marriage between Henry and Catharine, but farther, he prevailed with the king to declare the Dauphin incapable of succeeding to the crown; and fully to compleat the duke's revenge, that prince caused his own son to be banished the kingdom, and the king of England declared

clared his lawful successor, by an act of parliament.

AFTER these surprising fits of madness, Henry repaired to the court then at Troyes, took the reins of government into his hands, secured himself of Paris and the principal cities in the kingdom, and then prepared for espousing the princess, who had brought him to so much grandeur.

TIDERIC had some time before been apprised by the duke of Burgundy of what was transacting; and perceiving his utter inability to prevent it, he came to a strange resolution. Being now deprived of all hopes of success in his amorous pursuits, he began to despise the smiles as well as the frowns of fortune. The only joy, the only hope he had now left was, now and then to see the object of his love, tho' at a distance, and without this it was impossible for him to live, therefore he chose to renounce all his pretensions, rather than to be debarred

debarred being in any place where he could hope to enjoy a sight of his amiable princess ; and for this reason he desired to be included in the treaty.

FOR some time he had led the most deplorable life that can be imagined ; but when he saw the nuptials of Henry and Catharine, which were celebrated at Troyes, nothing could equal his torture. The most lively description would be but a faint picture of the severity of his sufferings. He had like to have dropt down in the place where he stood, and could not certainly have survived the shock, if such accidents could of themselves put an end to life ; but we may daily observe, that tho' the greatest misfortunes may overwhelm us, they but very rarely have force enough to destroy us.

IN the mean time Catharine was in no much better condition than Tideric ; for tho' she had pride enough to do violence to herself, with respect to the affection

fection she still felt for him, yet she could not, upon some occasions, think of him without saying to herself a thousand things in his favour. She even sometimes suspected that she had wrongfully condemned him, and concluded, that the melancholy with which he had been observed to be affected, ever since she had so maltreated him, was a stronger proof of his innocence than the above mentioned letter was of his guilt ; and what confirmed her strongly in this way of thinking was, her perceiving that he no longer held any correspondence with madam de Giac ; and that so far from retaining any esteem for her, he could not hear her spoke of without horror. These reflections often gave her some pain ; but virtue at last always triumphed over weakness, and assisted at least in making her reject what she sometimes resolved, of coming to an explanation with him.

C H A P. V.

DURING this interval the unhappy Tideric found himself sinking by little and little under his misfortunes; and they would certainly have at last been the cause of his death, if an accident had not in some measure revived his hopes. There had been at court for some time an Italian named Panini, who pretended to tell fortunes, and whose reputation was so well established by the surprising things he had told to many of the grandees, that he was looked on as a person indued with some extraordinary gift. He had cast the horoscope of the king of England, with which that prince had no reason to be pleased; but without stopping to relate what he told his majesty about the accidents of fortune, I shall only say, that he assured him that his life would be of no long duration; that his death would be of an extraordinary kind; and that, with-

without being killed, he would be attacked by a hundred thousand enemies, who would never leave him till they had laid him in his grave.

THE Duke of Clarence, the king's brother, had indulged the same curiosity ; and his destiny was as little happy as that of his brother ; for he was to lose his life at the first battle he engaged in. These princes were not much pleased with those unlucky predictions; but as that relating to the death of the king appeared to be ridiculous, they did not much disturb them, nor did they ever raise in them any apprehensions, but when they considered that many of this man's prophesies had already come to pass. But people began soon to place an entire faith in Panini, upon the duke of Clarence's being killed in a skirmish, which happened at Anjou, between his troops and those of the Dauphin, commanded by the earl of Buchan, whom this prince had made constable.

THIS

THIS accident made most people admire the knowledge of the Italian, and there were none who did not desire to consult him. Tideric had long despised him, but was now one of those who heard him with attention ; and his confidence in him was considerably increased, by the particular transactions of his passed life which this man mentioned ; for being shut up together, Panini, after having drawn all the figures which were essential to his art, says to him, " My lord, I know not what to think of those things I see here : You must be naturally inconstant, and fortune seems to take a pleasure in treating you according to the disposition of your own mind. I find a considerable misfortune has happened to you, which in an instant reduced you to despair ; and yet I see you presently forget it, without any accident's happening that could produce a change in your affairs. But what I am yet to tell you, appears to me still more strange. You are betrayed

ed by a person that loves you ; and who far from abandoning your interest, is as zealously attached to it as ever.” Panini was for some time after this in deep meditation, but then resuming the discourse, “ My lord, (says he to Tideric) there is still another thing which no less astonishes me : You have of late met with a very great misfortune, which nevertheless was not occasioned by your enemies, and the person who was the cause of it feels it as much as you. All this (continues he) you must yourself unriddle if you can, for I must freely acknowledge, that I can no way understand it ; and all that I can say to you of any thing less mysterious is, that you are violently fond of something, and tho’ you have lost all hopes of possessing it, yet you shall obtain that possession much sooner than you can imagine ; but you will run the risk of accelerating thereby the end of your days, and take care that your death be not of the most cruel kind.”

THIS

THIS was all he said to Tideric ; but this was enough to make him reflect seriously within himself ; for who would not have been surprized ? Setting aside the article of his having been betrayed, which was even to him a little mysterious, all the rest corresponded so exactly with what had happened, that it could not be misunderstood. He therefore began to promise himself a better fortune in time to come ; and this feeble ray of hope illuminating his mind, it was soon perceived, that his chagrin was not near equal to what it had been. Among others queen Catharine took particular notice of this alteration. She resolved to know the cause from whence it proceeded, and being informed of Panini's saying publickly, that with regard to Tideric he knew nothing of the stars, for their aspect was so mysterious, that he could not comprehend it. Upon this the queen became curious to know what he had said to the prince, being convinced of its being from thence that he had derived his comfort. She ordered

ed Panini to come to her at a time when she was alone, and commanded him to inform her of every thing relating to the fortune of Tideric : He freely owned the perplexity he was under, and the difficulty he found in being able to comprehend what appeared in the figure he had drawn. At the same time he related to her all he had said to Tideric, a great part of which she could have explained to him, had she so inclined ; but she took care not to communicate her thoughts to him ; and after having given him orders to draw her horoscope, she dismissed him.

PANINI's conversation set her a thinking on the depth of his knowledge ; and persuading herself that it was infallible, she found her mind divided between vexation at having accused the prince wrongfully, and joy at knowing that he was not to be always unhappy. But this small satisfaction was encountered by several opposite circumstances : She presently recollect ed the letter she had in

F her

her possession ; and giving more credit to that than to all the knowledge of Panini, she sometimes treated his predictions as mere empty dreams, and often accused herself of too much credulity. Nevertheless she would have run the risk of declaring again in favour of the prince, if her virtue had not come to her assistance, and raised in her a scruple of conscience with regard to every thing that related to him. This thought alone made her absolutely condemn Tideric, and resolve that for the quiet of her own mind, she would believe him guilty, upon which she bid adieu to every thought that could plead for her coming to an explanation with him.

BUT Panini soon gave her an opportunity of obtaining a new victory over herself. He had drawn her horoscope in pursuance of her commands ; and being desirous to give her an account of it, he took an opportunity of being heard when they could not be interrupted. After being introduced, he says, " If I

was surprized, madam, at the strange accidents that appeared in the fortune of Tideric, I must own I am no less astonished at those I have observed in yours, for to me they appear still more extraordinary. But can I help being under the highest amazement, when I see the most potent princes on earth unhappy in the midst of her grandeur. This, however, is nothing, (continues he) for there have been so many who in a condition not much inferior to yours, have endured the same torments, that I should not be much confounded at this circumstance, if it were not attended with several others that to me appear quite inconsistent with common sense. For who would not blame you, madam, for contributing more by yourself alone to your own uneasiness, than all those you have any thing to do with? And even after this you do not so much as seek for any comfort; and I plainly see that you reject that which would give you satisfaction. You will not, however, continue always in this way of

thinking ; for you will at last leave off being thus cruel to yourself. But as it is your unlucky fate to do hurt to those that are dearest to you, you will be the cause of the death of the only person you sincerely love. And what amazes me beyond all measure is, that you are not to have so much as one moment's uneasiness at the death of that person."

THE queen would hear no more : She retired to her closet, and there she began a new contest with herself, in order to stifle a thousand suggestions in favour of Tideric. Every thing Panini had said to her seemed to combat on his side ; but at last she got the better of her weakness, and began to enjoy the repose which her virtue had procured her, when she felt all her troubles renewed by an accident which soon after happened.

THE king her husband prosecuted vigorously the war against the Dauphin. He had just taken from him the cities
of

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of Meaux and Compeigne ; and was marching to the relief of Cosne, which was besieged by the army of that prince, when he was seized with a distemper at Melun, which obliged him to stop at that place. As his malady increased rather than diminished, he caused himself to be carried to the castle of Vincennes, where he was scarce arrived when the truth of Panini's predictions began to appear. He was seized with that sort of contagion which the physicians called *pedicular*, and in a short time was so covered with vermin and putrefaction, that the Italian's prediction failed in nothing but in the number of executioners who laid that prince in his grave.

THE queen was without doubt exceedingly grieved at such a terrible death ; but we are not to suppose she was so much afflicted as she would have been had she married a prince with whom she was really in love. On the other hand, Tideric had not a moment's

uneasiness at the news, so far otherwise he began to hope that his misfortunes were drawing towards an end. Trusting in what Panini had said to him, as well as his own innocence, he flattered himself, that the queen would call to mind the sincerity of his love, and that after so many cross accidents she would perhaps at last make him amends for all the torments she had so unjustly made him suffer. In this he was not altogether deceived ; for the queen having now nothing to oppose to that passion she still fostered in her breast for him, she let herself be insensibly drawn in to yield to every argument that spoke in his favour ; and if she yet insisted upon some little sort of explanation, it was because she thought it necessary for convincing him that she had some reason for treating him in the manner she had done.

MATTERS being thus on both sides in so good a situation, the queen went over to England, and was followed by
Tideric.

Tideric. These two lovers began from that time to look upon one another with eyes so full of affection, that it was easy to perceive there would not be any very great difficulty in a thorough reconciliation. But tho' Tideric perfectly knew that the queen had no longer any distaste towards him, yet he could not venture to break silence. He had already had many occasions for entertaining her with his passion, without daring to undertake it; and in short he would for a much longer time have languished under the torments of a hidden love, if that princess had not herself furnished him with an opportunity for opening his mind.

ONE day when they were alone together, after a pretty long conversation upon the subject of the war, the queen says to him, "In short I believe we shall soon lose all hopes of preserving the kingdom of France; for the fortune of war has declared so strongly in favour of the Dauphin, that there is no

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great appearance of our being long able
to withstand it. I every day hear that
some of those who had declared for the
deceased king my husband, have forsak-
en us; and every where we hear of
nothing but treachery."

" MADAM, (answers Tideric) we
must not now-a-days trust to any but
such as we have a thorough knowledge
of, and even they we find are often
as indifferent as others about the
performance of what they promise.
There is so little sincerity in the trans-
actions of mankind, that those who
make the most solemn professions are
usually such as have the least inclination
to keep their word."

You are well acquainted with some
such persons, (replies the queen) but
tho' you seem to condemn their con-
duct, I am sure you are too much their
friend to wish them any punishment."

" You

“ You are in the right, madam ; (says Tideric, sighing) for whatever afflictions they may have brought upon me, I feel as yet so much tenderness in my heart for some people, cruel as they are, that I adore them.”

“ THAT is to say, (answers the queen) you have so much self-love, as not to pass sentence against yourself.”

“ I mean, madam, (replies Tideric) that notwithstanding your cruelty, you still appear the same in my eyes, as when you was the princess Catharine, who, I could once flatter myself, had some regard for me.”

“ Do not call to my mind (answers the queen) the reason I had for being offended with you ; for after your behaving in such a manner towards me, I shew good nature enough in admitting you to my presence.”

"RATHER say, madam, (replies Tideric) that you have been cruel enough to punish me in the most rigorous manner, without ever letting me know the pretence you had for subjecting me to so much torment."

"PRETENCE! (says the queen) people do not make use of pretences, but when they have no true reasons; and none will be at the pains to invent such as are false, when they have so good a one as that you furnished me."

"AH! madam, (cries Tideric) I beg you'd explain yourself. I cannot penetrate into people's thoughts; and without being guilty, it is impossible to guess at the reason you have to complain of me."

"I plainly see, (answers the queen) that Tideric must have a proof for convincing him. He shall have it; and, (continues she) in giving him the letter before

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before spoken of, let him consider what
he can say against this."

THE prince took the letter, and having
read it from beginning to end,
" Well, madam, (says he) what has
this to say against me ? "

" WHAT, my lord ! (replies the
queen) Can you ask that of me ? Is it
not you that must explain to me the in-
trigue you had with madam de Giac, if
you intend that I should know any
thing of it ? "

" I have nothing to inform you of,
madam, (says he) relating to what you
see in that letter ; and you know as
well as I, (continues he, in returning
the letter) that this relates to the in-
trigue which the duke of Burgundy
had with that lady."

" BUT it was to you (replies the
princess) that this letter was wrote ; and
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The LIFE of
it was delivered to me by your secre-
tary."

" My secretary ! (says Tideric) he
never had a letter from that lady to de-
liver to me. But at what time was it,
madam, that he gave you this letter ? "

" THE moment after you had left
me, (answers the queen) in order to go
along with the duke of Burgundy."

" Ah, madam ! (says Tideric, after
musing a little) this may very well be ;
for I had but just parted frou that lady,
when I came to take my leave of you ;
and I had pressed her so much to write
to that poor prince with whom she had
quarrelled, that it might perhaps have
afterwards induced her to send him that
letter."

" Why did she not deliver it to you
yourself, before you left her ? " (replies
the princess.).

" WHILE

“ WHILE I was with her, madam, I could not persuade her to write, (says Tideric) but she thought better on it perhaps the moment I was gone.”

“ BUT what did she mean (replies the princess) by that jealousy, and those political reasons she talks of ? ”

“ MADAM, (says Tideric) I can easily satisfy you as to this : She was jealous of madam de Foix, and upon that head she was so very unreasonable, that she would give no ear to any thing I could say about the necessity of the duke’s being upon good terms with that lady. These are the political reasons she complains of, and which, she says, we were to pass upon her as good coin.”

“ AND these (replies the queen) are the expressions which have given me so much uneasiness, and which must likewise have given a great deal to you, if there be any sincerity in the regard you pro-

profess for me. But as you was conscious of your innocence, why did not you endeavour to undeceive me? Is this to be called love, to leave one under such uneasiness as entirely robs her of her peace of mind?"

"MADAM, (says Tideric) it is I, if you please, that have reason to complain, and to ask you, if it is to be called loving one to drive him away from you, in the manner you turned me out of your closet."

"I thought you criminal; (answers the queen) and could I better shew how dear you was to me, than in shewing you the resentment I had of your inconstancy?"

"AND I, madam, (replies Tideric) could I better testify the respect I had for you, than in obeying what you so peremptorily commanded."

"Ah, Tideric, (says the princess) who is she that would not have acted in
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TIDERIC Prince of Wales. III

the same cruel manner upon a supposition of having the same ground of complaint I thought I had against you ? ”

“ No, madam ; (answers Tideric) one who had loved more, would not so easily have deemed me guilty : She would have considered her own heart, and feeling no tenderness there but for him she loved, she would have concluded, that he could have a tenderness for none but her.”

“ But what could one think (replies the queen) of so many proofs as I thought I had against you ? ”

“ MADAM, (says Tideric) what should I think, if I gave ear to every thing that might be said to your disadvantage ? ”

“ You have nothing to say against me (replies the queen) that is of equal force with the letter I have shewn you.”

“ You

“ You cannot reproach me, madam, (says Tideric) with a marriage founded upon ambition.”

“ Ah, Tideric, (cries the queen) how can you accuse me upon that head? Supposing there had been no mistake between us, had I a right to oppose that which had been resolved on by my father, and upon which the happiness of a whole kingdom depended?”

“ You might, however, have told me so, madam; (says Tideric) and tho’ there is nothing that can comfort a lover under such a misfortune, there is still a great deal in his having room to flatter himself, that he has been sacrificed solely to the happiness of the state.”

“ MIGHT not your own sagacity have told you this? (answers the queen.) Have not I upon many occasions shewn you such a tender regard as might have made

made you perceive that I could love none but you?"

" It is with difficulty, madam, (replies Tideric) that we believe any proofs when we see them contradicted by those of a direct contrary nature. And even now you cannot imagine that I have an entire dependence upon those tokens of your goodness which at present you are pleased to favour me with, if you are resolved that they shall be followed by as severe a trial as that you have already made me pass through."

" No, no, Tideric; (says the queen) you have nothing further to fear upon that head. I have fulfilled what I owed to my country, by the sacrifice of my love which I made to it: It is enough for me to have married once against my inclination: It is not incumbent upon me to do so again. The moment I found you innocent I restored you my heart; and if you have the same affection for me you had formerly,
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" O ! madam, (answers Tideric, throwing himself at her feet) how much ought I now to despise the torments I have suffered for so good a princess : How can I ever explain to you what I feel ! No, madam, (continues he) it is not to be expressed ; but if you knew the condition my heart is in, the moment I am now speaking, you could not doubt of its being more yours than ever. I do not only accept the favour you offer, but I accept it with a sense of gratitude mixed with joy and with respect ; and if it be your desire that I should become the happiest of men, hasten only the day when I am to be blessed with so much felicity. From that time, madam, I shall endeavour to convince you, that in the possession of my lovely princess I have all I can desire in this world ; and that with such a possession

session I do not envy the greatest monarch upon earth."

" I am glad (replies the queen) to find you of such sentiments ; and you may be persuaded it shall not be my fault, if you are not fully satisfied."

C H A P. VI.

TIDERIC thanked the queen, as he was in duty bound ; and the two lovers parted so satisfied with one another, that they thought no more of the troubles they had by their own fault been exposed to. Tideric thought himself arrived at the highest happiness he could desire ; and the queen concluded, that she ought to be satisfied, since she found herself assured of being still beloved by the only man she admired. Nevertheless she found her joy interrupted, when she reflected upon what Panini had said ; and nothing could comfort her when she considered that the love

she

she had for Tideric was to cost him his life. She sometimes communicated her fears to her lover ; but he always endeavoured to encourage her ; and he omitted nothing that could serve to convince her, that these fortunetellers oftner fail than succeed ; and that it is owing to meer chance when they happen to foretel any thing like what comes to pass.

ONE day, when their conversation was upon this subject, she says to him, " Do not you see, that I cannot help giving credit to what was said by Pani-ni ? for every thing that he foretold has happened so exactly according to his predictions, that I am extremely apprehensive about what he said concerning you. It would be much better (continues she) for us to continue having the same tender regard for one another, without proceeding farther, that I may by that means preserve a man who is so dear to me, without exposing him to the

the fate with which he is threatened by my kindness."

AH ! madam, (replies Tideric) if either of us has occasion to be apprehensive, is it not Tideric alone, since it is him who is to die ? But life is not of such a value to me, as to refuse giving it up, if by that alone I am to merit such an inexpressible happiness as that you have promised me ; and even then I should not think I had paid the full value for what I so much esteem, should I see an end put to my days, an hour after having received the most indubitable tokens of your love."

" ALAS ! Tideric ; (cries the queen) do not call to my mind the thought that I must lose you. Even now it makes such a tormenting impression upon my imagination, that I cannot help feeling it. Could I bear to see myself deprived of the man I love, without dying of grief ? "

H A V E

" HAVE you these sentiments, madam, (replies Tideric) and can you, notwithstanding, give credit to Panini's predictions ? Do not you remember, that you are not to have a moment's uneasiness at my death ? I would not be so unjust to my princess (continues he) as to believe it. On the contrary, after the kindness she has been so good as to shew to me, I am persuaded that her destiny would be involved in mine ; and that if she did not die by the same blow that sent me to my grave, her sorrow would be so great that her future life might be reckoned worse than immediate death."

" You do me justice, Tideric ; (says the queen) and what you have observed, entirely confirms me. No ; Panini does not see clearly into futurity ; for the prince of Wales cannot meet with the least misfortune that will not afflict me equally with him. Let us compleat what the fates have designed for us ;

us ; and let us endeavour to render ourselves happy by preventing that which may again plunge us into misfortunes as great as those we have but just escaped from."

WHILE the queen's sentiments were thus so favourable for Tideric, fortune prepared new obstacles to their love. The duke of Gloucester, who had been employed in the war ever since the conference at Meulan, was chosen to command in England, and to take upon him the government of affairs there, during the minority of his nephew Henry VI. who was then but in his cradle. This prince accepted the commission with joy ; and the more willingly prepared for his voyage, as he still retained the same passion for the queen with which he was affected at their first interview. In short, he no sooner saw her again, than his former flame burst out with as great fury as ever. He still thought her more beautiful than any one he had ever seen : His quality

quality of regent obliged him to confer often with her ; and these frequent conversations added force to his flames of love. As to every thing he thought she could desire, he got it done before she could ask it ; and in short he was so civil and obliging, that it was with difficulty she could avoid conceiving an esteem for him.

NEVERTHELESS his complaisance was so far from being agreeable to the queen, that she became deeply afflicted as soon as she began to guess the cause ; and she behaved in such a manner, as to prevent every occasion he sought for entertaining her with his love. But her precautions were all in vain ; for one day after they had been talking of state-affairs, and she had complimented him upon his having faithfully performed his duty, “ You have made me a compliment, madam, (says the duke) which does not at all belong to me ; for I have contributed much less than you

you to that success which I have now acquainted you with."

THE queen not comprehending what the duke meant by this, "How, my lord? (says she) Let me, I pray, understand this mystery; for what part could I have in an affair I did not so much as know any thing of?"

"NOTWITHSTANDING that, madam, (answers the duke) you could not but have wished that the affair should succeed in the manner it has done; and when the duke of Gloucester can but guess at what you desire, it is sufficient for making him conform himself entirely to it."

"I am very much obliged to you; (replies the queen) but let me, if you please, my lord, impute the whole to the zeal you have for the king's service, and in that light it will be no way less agreeable to me."

“ You would be in the wrong, madam, (says the duke) not to ascribe it to yourself alone ; for you should believe that love will ever have a greater power over my mind, than all the obligations I owe either to nature or duty. I must tell you, (continues he) that I am no way changed from what I was when you saw me at Meulan. But be not alarmed at what I say, madam ; for I have not so much as a thought you can take amiss ; and in short I very well know, that what has happened since my fatal departure from thence, prevents my having any farther pretensions. Nevertheless, my passion for you is as warm, as it could be, had I room to hope that you might one day make me happy. Pity, madam, a passion so wretched ; but violent as it is, it shall always be respectful enough to prevent my indulging a thought that may be inconsistent with the virtue of a princess whom I shall during my whole life adore, with sentiments equal to those I have at present.”

THERE

THESE words gave the queen some consolation, and having reflected a little upon what answer she should make to him, she at last broke silence in the manner as follows : “ You cannot but suppose, my lord, that the declaration you have made to me of your passion gives me a great deal of uneasiness, and you oblige me to have such an esteem for you, that I cannot avoid wishing you a better fortune than that you are preparing for yourself. Reflect upon what it is to love without hope ; and I am sure if you consider it as you ought, you will prevent a great deal of trouble you are going to bring upon yourself, and upon me also, if you indulge this unhappy passion.”

“ AT this time of day, madam, (answers the duke) I am not to begin to make that reflection. There is not an argument I have not used with myself for getting the better of this weakness ; but my passion for you is in short too violent, and after a thousand ef-

G 2 sorts,

forts, the farthest I have been able to gain upon myself is, to admire you as a lover the most ardent, but to speak to you as a man debarred by the most sacred duties from telling you all he thinks. Yes, madam, I can accommodate the most languishing looks with the most respectful language; and nothing but my eyes shall ever signify to my princess, that the unfortunate duke of Gloucester was born to love her with a passion the most extreme."

"PUT an end, I beg, my lord, (replies the queen) to that way of thinking which leads you into an error; for do not you perceive, that you have already begun to talk to me in a manner contrary to the resolution you have taken; and that you are explaining to me what you say you feel, at the same time that you promise me never to mention it?"

"I should not have adverted to it, madam, (says the duke) if you had not made me take notice of it; but at another time I shall take better care to
acquit

acquit myself of the promise I have made you. I shall not so much as complain of your cruelty, however much you may shew towards me ; and I know but one thing alone which can make me alter the measures I have resolved to observe, with respect to a passion of so delicate and respectful a nature."

" TAKE care, my lord : (replies the queen) your passion is void of that respect you talk of, if you think you can ever dispence with that silence you have promised ; and it is this promise alone which makes me suffer a conversation so contrary to what I owe to myself, and which, if ever but once renewed, will make me lose all that esteem which your genteel behaviour has gained from me."

" THAT esteem, madam, (says the duke) with which you flatter me, is of too great a value for me not to preserve it at the expence of whatever it may cost me ; and if the duke of Gloucester

does not see that you are going to make another happy, at the same time that he suffers so much, he may by his behaviour perhaps convince you, that he himself deserved that happiness, if a brother had not first got possession of it, and thereby deprived him of all future hopes."

THESE words made the queen see what difficulties she was to encounter in her design of marrying Tideric. This reflection gave her great affliction ; but before giving a loose to her sorrow, she resolved to get rid of the duke. " My lord, (says she to him) take care to perform what you have promised, or resolve never to see me more ; for in truth I think I have too much reason to reproach myself for suffering you to talk in this manner : It is not enough for us to have good intentions, our actions ought to be conform."

" 'Tis true, madam ; (replies the duke) I admit what you say. My whole future care shall be to obey you ; and

and I shall never more tell you that I love you, since I find such discourse disgusting to you ; but nevertheless I must beg you to believe, that whatever disguise I may put on, I shall continue to be neither more nor less your lover ; and that the destiny of the duke of Gloucester indispensably binds him down to be the slave of the most lovely queen upon earth."

PRESENTLY after uttering these words he retired, and left the queen under an inconceivable affliction. At this moment Tideric happened to come in, and found the queen in such a condition as left him no room to doubt of her sorrow. " What has befallen you ? (cries Tideric immediately) Have the fates prepared new misfortunes for me ? "

" Yes, Tideric, (answers the queen) they are preparing new sufferings for me : The duke of Gloucester opposes my happiness, and the satisfaction I intended to have given you." She then gave

him an account of the conversation she had just had with the duke ; and presently adds, " You see, my prince, what I may expose you to, if I follow the inclination I have to do what you desire. Thus to deliver you over to the rage of a despised lover, is it not to endeavour to bring about what Panini has fatally foretold ? "

" WHAT can he do, madam ? (answers Tideric) and besides, does he not in other things shew virtue enough for us not to fear, that he will dishonour himself by any mean action ? "

" ALAS ! Tideric, (replies the queen) that shadow of virtue does not deceive me so much as it does you. I have penetrated to the bottom of the duke's heart, through all his disguises ; and I see that he has put on that false appearance of generosity, with no other view but that he may with the more facility give me the first stab, and tame me, if I may so speak, to the hearing his tale of love. Consider what we have to fear from one who

who thinks himself despised; and who in this kingdom has a power to perpetrate whatever he may resolve to undertake."

"WHAT then has my princess resolved to do? (says Tideric.)

"To love you during my whole life, (answers the queen) but to die a thousand deaths, rather than be the cause of any misfortune to you, the very thought of which makes my blood run cold with fear."

"But madam, (replies Tideric) is it not exposing me to the most cruel misfortune, to defer thus for ever what alone can make me happy? Can I apprehend any thing worse from the rage of the duke of Gloucester?"

"My God! Tideric, (cries the queen) do not press me upon this head: you know my weakness; but your preservation shall always be more dear to

me than the greatest pleasure I can have."

"LET us agree in something, madam, (answers Tideric) if it be possible; and since you have so much goodness as to take so great a care of my life, let us endeavour to find out a method that may prevent your obliging fears, and at the same time procure me that satisfaction which I am sure of meeting with in the accomplishment of what you have promised."

"THE thing is impossible." (cries the queen.)

"NOT so impossible as you think, madam. (answers the prince.) But if such an expedient could be contrived, would you reject it?"

"No, Tideric; (replies the queen) so far from rejecting it, I would most heartily agree to it."

"CON-

"CONSIDER then, madam, (says the prince) if you will resolve to marry me privately. It is not necessary to have many witnesses to one's happiness; and we may find such as are so faithful as not to leave us room to apprehend their revealing our secret without our leave."

"BUT are there not consequences to be apprehended; (answers the queen) and even those of marriage itself, ought not I to guard against them?"

" CAN we be in want of persons we can trust? (replies Tideric) and can you boggle at such trifles?"

THE queen was for some time without saying a word ; but in a few moments, resuming the discourse, she said, " In short, Tideric, I see clearly, that I must grant your request ; and indeed it would be impossible for me to refuse

132 The LIFE of
it ; but remember what one does for
you.”

“ THE prince being most sensibly touched, threw himself at her feet, and said to her every soft thing that a strong passion and the highest gratitude could suggest to a faithful and generous lover. The princess reached him her hand to raise him up ; and the happy lover laying hold of this beautiful hand, kissed it with transports so tender, that one might easily judge of the excess of pleasure he was going to enjoy in the possession of so lovely a princess. In short, no man was so happy as Tideric was made a few days after ; and in the marriage of this great queen he found a full compensation for all his past sufferings.

C H A P. VII.

SO happy an union, which had been preceded by so many troubles, was followed by the highest pleasures we are

are capable of tasting in this life; and difficulty, which serves as a seasoning for pleasure, made these lovers find a thousand charms in the secret of their marriage, which they might never perhaps have discovered, had they enjoyed one another without being obliged to make it a mystery. Their marriage continued a long time without any one's being sensible of it; and the queen concealed so well her being with child, that she brought forth more than one, without the world's coming at the knowledge of what passed. But as it is difficult to keep a lover always in the dark, especially an unsuccessful one, the duke of Gloucester began to suspect, that Tideric had a greater share than he in the good graces of the queen; and tho' that prince knew nothing but what his suspicions made him conjecture, he conceived nevertheless a most terrible jealousy. He afterwards never looked at Tideric but with a menacing countenance; and at last he gave such a loose to his resentment, that our lovers, easily perceiving it,

it, redoubled their precautions for concealing their marriage.

BUT fortune, which delights in inconstancy, growing tired of being so prodigal to them of its favours, resolved to make them feel its frowns, after having loaded them with its smiles. The duke of Gloucester had a thousand spies abroad, who watched every thing that passed with the utmost care, but who had as yet discovered nothing that could confirm their master in his suspicions. He sometimes reproached them with want of diligence, at other times with being traitors, and colleaguing with the queen to deceive him. However, these reproaches being all in vain, he resolved to serve himself, and in person apply to corrupt those whom he knew to have the greatest share in the secrets of that princess; but he found them all so firmly resolved to be steadfast in their duty, that he began to lose all hopes of succeeding in his design, when chance by itself alone compleated in

in a moment, what the duke had not in a long time been able to do with the help of all those he employed."

THE queen made use of one of her chief servants for carrying the letters she wrote to Tideric, and had given him one to carry to him. This faithful servant being proud of discharging carefully every trust reposed in him by the queen, waited for night's coming on, that he might repair to Tideric's country-house; and he no sooner saw the day begin to disappear, than he set out to deliver his message. He was already got near that prince's house, when he was attacked by six foot-pads. He defended himself with all imaginable resolution, but being deserted by a footman who attended him, he was soon wounded in so many places that he fell down dead upon the spot. This murder was not committed without some noise; and the footman likewise who had taken to his heels, called all he could meet with to his master's assist-

ance : Accordingly a number of people were soon assembled ; but they came too late ; for the gentleman was dead, and the murderers had made their escape. Some of the people went in pursuit of them, whilst others caused carry the dead body to the next house ; where making an inventory of every thing the deceased person had in his pockets, according to the laudable custom of this sort of people, they found the letter which he was carrying to Tideric. They presently knew the queen's seal, and as the letter was without any direction, they supposed it to be of importance ; therefore, notwithstanding all the footman could say, the constable laid hold of it, and carried it directly to the regent, to whom he related all that had passed. The regent presently dismissed him, and looking three or four times upon this fatal letter, without venturing to unseal it, he at last opened it, and found the contents to be thus :

My

My dearest prince,

They are endeavouring all they can to discover if I love you ; and they have omitted nothing that could serve for drawing from my people what they know of my secrets ; but I find I am not deceived in the opinion I had of their fidelity ; and if I am not mistaken, our jealous pate will for a long time play the watchman in vain. I am at present a little relieved from my apprehensions. Come, my dear, as soon as you can, to take advantage of the good opportunities we have, and that I may give my dear Tideric the most undoubted testimonies of my loving him more than I do myself. I am, &c.

" THE duke fell into a rage at the reading of this letter. It was some time before he could resolve how he was to behave ; but at last having vented furious menaces against these two unhappy lovers, he resolved to shew them] the utmost that

that the sense of being contemned was capable of producing in the mind of a lover instigated by a most violent passion. He neglected nothing that could be imagined for animating his revenge ; and when he felt himself touched with any remains of tenderness, “ Is it then for this infamous princess (said he to himself) that thou com’st to solicit me ? and dost thou still find thyself mean enough to consent to the keeping of any measures with a woman who not contented with tormenting me, has moreover dishonoured the royal family, by carrying on a shameful intrigue with a prince so very much below herself. O, too happy Tideric ! (cried he a moment after) thou shalt expiate by thy death the trespass thou hast committed upon the memory of thy prince ; and the duke of Gloucester shall revenge him, at the same time that he satisfies his own resentment for the outrage thou hast committed upon his love.”

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He continued for at least an hour vainly throwing out such complaints as these ; and supposing that he should find great relief in reproaching the queen to her face with what he had been thus complaining of to himself alone, he went directly to her apartment. The queen was surprized to see him at so late an hour ; but she had occasion to be a great deal more surprized, when that prince, with a terrible stern look, said, “ I do not wonder at the disorder into which I have thrown you. When one expects to see a lover that has been kindly used, and in stead thereof sees one that is drove even to madnes, it is cause sufficient for one’s changing colour ; but I shall myself change exceedingly, if I do not in a short time produce more surprising metamorphoses ; and I hope those deceitful eyes I now see, will soon shed tears for that which has hitherto made them look blithe.”

“ WHAT

"WHAT do you mean, my lord duke?" answers the queen, half angry with his discourse, and half trembling.

"I mean, madam, (replies the duke) that to see you, one could never believe, that you could put such an innocent look upon a behaviour so little within the rules of decency. But I know your secret pranks; and it is no longer time to dissemble with those who have wherewithal to confound you.—There, madam! (continues he, in shewing her the above-mentioned letter) there is something that must disconcert you. Ought you not to blush at those shameful terms you make use of for expressing your passion?"

IF the queen was astonished at the duke's discourse, you may judge what befel her when she saw her letter in his hands. She was for some time without speaking; but concluding, that it was no longer a time to dissemble, "By what-

whatever accident, my lord, (says she) you have come at my letter, I do not see how you can pretend a right to censure my actions. Cannot I write to my husband what I think proper, without the duke of Gloucester's having any thing to say against it ? ”

“ TIDERIC your husband ! ” cries instantly the duke.

“ Yes, my lord, Tideric is my husband ; (replies the queen) and I must farther tell you, that I have three children by that marriage.”

AT these words the duke had almost died of grief ; but resuming the discourse after having reflected a few moments upon what the queen had just told him, “ A queen of England, (says he) and daughter of the king of France, has married Tideric, and has three children by him ! A, ah madam ! do not think to impose upon me by such a fiction. It will be in vain for you to think of putting

ting a stop to my vengeance ; and that too happy Tideric, let him be what you will, shall die for it. He shall attone to me for the caprice of fortune, which destines some to so much happiness, whilst others linger out life in unspeakable torments." Upon this he burst out of the room with the air and gait of a man that was to be dreaded. The queen could not see him in such a passion, without trembling for Tideric ; and that moment she felt a chilness which did not leave her till death.

IN the mean time the duke of Gloucester sent officers to arrest the prince, but they miss'd of him by a moment ; for he was just gone from home, in order to pay a visit to the queen, upon the news he had received of her servant's having been assasinated. He entered her chamber without having been seen by any body, and finding that princess in such a situation as could not but draw tears from the hardest heart, he was a long time without expressing any signs of

of sorrow by his words, but he made amends by those he shewed in his countenance, which were such as could not be produced but by the deepest affliction. At last, looking most tenderly upon that lovely princess, and speaking to her with his eyes as much as with his mouth, he says, "What is this new misfortune, my dear queen? and what can I conjecture from this wretched condition in which I find you?"

" Ah ! my prince, we are undone. (answers the queen.) The duke of Gloucester has got hold of a letter I sent you this day by him I thought my most trusty servant; and in a word we are betrayed."

" THAT trusty servant is dead; (replies Tideric) he has just been assassinated near my house. I am come here on purpose to pay my duty to my princess, and to know from her, if she has been acquainted with this fatal accident."

" ALAS

" ALAS ! no ; (says the queen) I almost suspected him of treachery ; but now I begin to think him innocent : And who were his assassins ? Without doubt it is the duke who has caused commit this crime ; and not satisfied with having put this unhappy man to death, he moreover aims at the life of my dear Tideric."

SHE then related what had passed between her and the duke of Gloucester ; and not having strength to say any more, she fainted away at the end of her relation. It was a full half hour before she came again to herself ; and when she did, it was with such a raging fever as alarmed all those that were about her.

IN the mean time Tideric was in no much better condition than she. He could not behold all those melancholy marks of friendship which this princess gave him, without feeling his soul pierced

ced with sorrow ; but he soon had reason to be overwhelmed ; for some unlucky person having informed the queen, that the duke of Gloucester's officers had been at Tideric's house to take him into custody, and that they were every where in search of him, she concluded him a lost man, and that nothing could save him from the duke's fury. She obliged him to suffer himself to be shut up in a closet behind her bed ; but this precaution did not free her from her fears ; so that her fever came to be attended with a delirium, which threw her into fits of raving, and in two days brought her to the last extremity.

IT is difficult to describe what Tideric felt when he saw the queen in this condition. One does not even know which of the two was most to be pitied. He beheld her with looks the most tender ; and it was only by a torrent of tears, which fell from his eyes that he could express his sorrow. The queen having a little recovered her senses, was touch-

ed at his sufferings ; and making the utmost effort to speak her last words to him, “ My prince, (says she) if you will oblige me, do not afflict yourself so much : consider that you have children, and that for their sakes you ought to preserve yourself : Think no more of the mother : Reserve for those tender pledges which I leave you of my love, those tokens which you now give me of your's. At the same time she embraced Tideric, and mixing together the thoughts of his sufferings and his love, she drew her last breath in his arms, without its being easy to determine whether she died of joy or of grief.

THE unhappy Tideric, in a flood of tears, remained stretched out by her body, which by embracing he endeavoured to keep warm ; but perceiving it at last to be quite cold, and without any feeling, he then became sensible of his misfortune. He was for a long time in a most frightful fit, and he no sooner recovered, than he quite abandoned

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ed himself to despair. " Ah, Panini ! (cries he to himself) how clearly didst thou see into futurity ! How exactly didst thou foretel even to the least circumstance of my misfortune ! My queen, 'tis true, cannot have a moment's uneasiness at my death, since the illustrious princess is now no more." He said no more ; but rushing out of the chamber, he went directly to the duke of Gloucester's : he accosted that prince with the fierceness of a man who has no fear of death ; and surveying him with a contemptuous smile, " Finish, thou barbarian, (says he) what thou hast so wickedly begun ; and since my lovely queen has just lost her life by thy barbarities, why dost thou delay to make me feel the strokes of thy injustice, by which thou may'st reunite in heaven those that were so thoroughly united here upon earth."

" THE queen dead ! (replies the duke in a surprise) is it possible ? Good God ! can I hear this fatal news, with-

out dying of grief?" At the same time his breast heaved with repeated sighs; and turning towards Tideric with an air of fury, "Yes, yes, traitor, I shall soon grant thee thy request: In thy blood I shall wash out the sorrows thou hast made me feel." Then instantly he called his officers, and after ordering them to seize and carry Tideric to prison, he shut himself up in his chamber, where he uttered a thousand exclamations against his destiny.

But in a little while, his love became all fury. In short, a few days after he caused erect a scaffold, on which he ordered the unfortunate Tideric to be put to death. The poor prince was conducted thither as if he had been a criminal; but instead of complaining of the duke's cruelty, he begged of those that were near him to thank him in his name for the favour he had done him, since it was by that means alone he could hope soon again to see his lovely queen. He then laid his head upon

the block, which the executioner severed from his body at one blow. This memorable reverse of fortune must furnish to the whole world a proof how small a distance there is from the summit of compleat happiness to the gulph of most terrible misfortunes.

F I N I S.



A decorative floral ornament centered at the bottom of the page. It features a central circular motif with intricate patterns, surrounded by various leaves, flowers, and vines, all rendered in a dark, possibly black or dark brown, ink.



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